

U.S. NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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NATIONAL CAPITAL MEMORIAL ADVISORY COMMISSION

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MEETING

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TUESDAY,  
FEBRUARY 11, 2020

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The meeting convened in the National  
Capital Planning Commission Chambers, Room 5116,  
Suite 500, at 401 9th Street NW, Washington,  
D.C., at 12:30 p.m., Peter May, Chair, presiding.

NATIONAL CAPITAL MEMORIAL ADVISORY COMMISSION  
MEMBERS PRESENT:

PETER MAY, Chair, National Park Service  
EDWIN FOUNTAIN,

American Battle Monuments Commission  
THOMAS LUEBKE, U.S. Commission of Fine Arts  
DAVID J. MALONEY, District of Columbia Office of  
Planning

PAUL McMAHON, U.S. Department of Defense  
MICHAEL SHERMAN, National Capital Planning

Commission

MICHAEL TURNBULL, Architect of the Capitol

MINA WRIGHT, General Services Administration

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

STAFF PRESENT:

SOPHIA KELLY

BETH PORTER

CHRIS WILSON,

Advisory Council on Historic Preservation

ALSO PRESENT:

WILLIAM ATTIG, AFL-CIO

MAJ. GEN. PAT BRADY

JOE DANIELS, National Medal of Honor Museum  
Foundation

MAGGIE DUSKIN

SKIP GRAFFAM, OLIN Studio

JON GREEN, Military Legislative Assistant for  
Rep. Jason Crow

KITTY HOECK, Daughters of the Republic of Texas

SARAH LAVEN-JONES, Legislative Assistant for Rep.  
Lloyd Doggett

RAYA KENNEY, Women Who Worked on the Home Front  
Foundation

ROGER LEWIS, Peace Corps Commemorative Foundation

MICHAEL RODRIGUEZ, Global War on Terrorism  
Memorial Foundation

LT. COL. WILLIAM SWENSEN

SCOTT STUMP, National Desert Storm War Memorial  
Association

REP. MARC VEASEY, Texas 33rd Congressional  
District

ISAIA VIMONT

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## P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S

(12:36 p.m.)

CHAIR MAY: Okay, so we're going to go ahead and get started. I'm still expecting one more commissioner to arrive, but hopefully he'll be here any minute now.

So first of all, let me say this is a bit of a shift from what we're accustomed to. You know, it may be really fun for me to sit in the chairman's seat at this commission, but it is a little different because I'm used to looking at the audience so I'm constantly be going like that. Anyway, and so it's different for our commissioners well while we go through this.

A reminder to the commissioners, if you want to speak, please remember to push your microphone. And when you're done speaking, turn it off. It's a little white button next to the microphone. Again, a little different from where we usually do our meetings. So we have some slightly different procedures.

One other preliminary note. For

1 everyone's safety, just be advised that the  
2 emergency exits for the building are located  
3 behind the elevator. So if you came up the  
4 elevator on side, it's just behind the elevator  
5 towards where the restrooms are I believe. And  
6 there's another set at the other elevator lobby  
7 at the other side.

8 So good afternoon, welcome to the  
9 first meeting of the year for the National  
10 Capital Memorial Advisory Commission. My name is  
11 Peter May, I'm here representing the director of  
12 the National Park Service at this meeting.

13 Present for today's meeting are  
14 Michael Sherman representing the chairman of the  
15 National Capital Planning Commission. Michael  
16 Turnbull representing the Architect of the  
17 Capital. Thomas Luebke of the Commission of Fine  
18 Arts. David Maloney representing the Mayor of  
19 the District of Columbia.

20 Mina Wright representing the  
21 Administrator of the General Services  
22 Administration. Paul McMahon will hopefully be

1 joining us shortly and he'll be representing the  
2 Secretary of Defense. And Edwin Fountain  
3 representing the Chairman of the American Battle  
4 Monuments Commission.

5 Also representing the Advisory Council  
6 on Historic Preservation is Chris Wilson. Mr.  
7 Wilson participates with the commission in a non-  
8 voting advisory capacity. And if you could bear  
9 with me for a sec, we'll ask Mr. Wilson to just  
10 explain a little bit about the Advisory Council  
11 and their role in this proceeding.

12 MR. WILSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
13 So I represent John Fowler who's the executive  
14 director of the Advisory Council on Historic  
15 Preservation. And really for those of you in the  
16 audience who aren't aware of what we do and why  
17 we're here, our mission statement is the ACHP  
18 promotes the preservation and enhancement of the  
19 sustainable use of the nation, its diverse  
20 historic resources, and advises the president and  
21 Congress on national historical preservation  
22 policy.

1                   But we also review Section 106  
2 projects. So as part of the Historic  
3 Preservation Act, Section 106 is housed at the  
4 ACHP. The only reason I am here is to answer  
5 questions or review cases that have anything to  
6 do with Section 106. So I just wanted to put  
7 that out there for those of you in the audience  
8 who aren't familiar with the agency. Thank you,  
9 Mr. Chairman.

10                   CHAIR MAY: Thank you, Mr. Wilson. So  
11 also here with us today, Sophie Kelly, our  
12 memorials program manager who's been with us  
13 almost a year now? A little less?

14                   MS. KELLY: Yeah.

15                   CHAIR MAY: And Beth Porter, who is  
16 our commission secretary and legislative affairs  
17 specialist for the National Park Service Region  
18 1. And while she did that job on and off for  
19 like a couple of years, she's permanently been  
20 doing this in this position now for about six  
21 months or so. So welcome to you both, and thank  
22 you for all the work you've done to set this up.

1 I'd also like to thank Michael Sherman  
2 of the National Capital Planning Commission for  
3 allowing us to use the hearing room today. NCPC  
4 staff has been a great help to us, and I think  
5 one of the advantages is that there may be video  
6 that'll be available after the fact. So that's  
7 an advantage of being in this location. I'm  
8 going to have to get used to the audience being  
9 on my right, but bear with me.

10 So just an overview of today's  
11 business. As most of you who are here today  
12 know, the commission was established by the  
13 Commemorative Works Act of 1986, and is required  
14 by the Act to advise the Secretary of the  
15 Interior, the administrator of the General  
16 Services Administration, and committees of  
17 Congress on the establishment of commemorative  
18 works in the District of Columbia and its  
19 environs.

20 And to provide its views to the  
21 appropriate committees of Congress when the  
22 committees are considering legislation to

1 authorize commemorative works within the District  
2 of Columbia and its environs. The Act also  
3 requires that sponsors of authorized memorials  
4 consult with this commission regarding site and  
5 design concept proposals.

6 Today we will review four pieces of  
7 legislation and four concept proposals. And now  
8 do we have agendas out front as well? We do not.  
9 So if you are unsure about the agenda, you can  
10 speak with Ms. Porter.

11 So let's see. Now ordinarily -- well,  
12 first of all, let me say that four legislative  
13 proposals and four design presentations is the  
14 biggest agenda that I have ever seen in my 12  
15 plus years chairing this commission. So it's  
16 going to be a long meeting and we'll try to run  
17 it as efficiently as possible. And it's just a  
18 lot to have to think about as we go through it.

19 But sometimes, you know, legislation  
20 flows and designs develop and they come to that  
21 critical point all at the same time, and that's  
22 what we have here today.

1                   So let's see. Normally we would begin  
2 with a review of legislation, but due to timing  
3 constraints on the part of one of our presenters,  
4 we have moved the design presentation for the  
5 Peace Corps commemorative work to the beginning  
6 of the agenda.

7                   However, I would also like to take a  
8 moment to briefly consider two of the agenda  
9 items out of order. I believe the designs for  
10 the second division memorial modification in the  
11 Korean War Veterans Memorial Wall of Remembrance  
12 are very well developed and require little  
13 comment from this commission. And they've all  
14 received the design presentation in advance.

15                  So accordingly, I would recommend that  
16 the commission forego the design presentations  
17 for these projects at this meeting and move  
18 straight to approval of specific language that we  
19 would then communicate to the memorial sponsors.  
20 Does any member of the commission have any  
21 concerns about this approach? Not seeing any,  
22 then we will return to it.

1                   Now are there any members of the  
2 audience who are here to comment on the second  
3 division memorial modification? And I mean  
4 members of the audience other than the proponents  
5 of the project. Not seeing anybody on that. How  
6 about for the Korean War Veterans Memorial Wall  
7 of Remembrance? Is there any member of the  
8 audience here to speak about that? Okay, not  
9 seeing that either.

10                   So with that, let's see, I need to  
11 read the proposed language I think into the  
12 record which for some reason with all the paper I  
13 have, I have lost. Thank you very much, Mr.  
14 Turnbull. So regarding the Korean War Veteran's  
15 Memorial Wall of Remembrance, this is the text  
16 that I would propose we put into a letter to the  
17 memorial sponsors.

18                   "National Capital Memorial Advisory  
19 Commission reviewed the design for the Korean War  
20 Veteran's Memorial Wall of Remembrance at the  
21 commission's February 11th, 2020 meeting. The  
22 Commission commends the Korean War Veteran's

1 Memorial Foundation and its design team on the  
2 sensitive and deferential approach to the  
3 addition of the wall of names to the existing  
4 memorial.

5 The low profile name wall response to  
6 the original memorial design by encircling the  
7 plaza surrounding the Central Pool of  
8 Remembrance. The project will further enhance  
9 the original commemoration through a new lighting  
10 design, benches, and rehabilitation of existing  
11 memorial components.

12 The Commission notes that the design  
13 received concept approval from the Commission of  
14 Fine Arts on September 19th, 2019 and approval  
15 comments on concept at the National Capital  
16 Planning Commission's October 3rd, 2019 meeting.

17 The Commission appreciates the  
18 opportunity to review the Korean War Veteran's  
19 Memorial Wall of Remembrance design and looks  
20 forward to the completion of the commemoration."  
21 So if everyone is satisfied with that, then I  
22 would look for a motion.

1 COMMISSIONER WRIGHT: So moved.

2 COMMISSIONER LUEBKE: I had a --

3 CHAIR MAY: Sure, question?

4 COMMISSIONER LUEBKE: Mr. Chairman,  
5 the only question I have. Of course, there is a  
6 larger design review process that goes on outside  
7 of this body's process, and I just want to make  
8 sure that while we at the CFA, we've made a  
9 concept approval, that there is still some  
10 outstanding issues which just need to be worked  
11 out. I don't want to take any position today  
12 that precludes the resolution of those details.

13 CHAIR MAY: Absolutely, understood.  
14 Thank you very much. So I heard a motion, is  
15 there a second?

16 COMMISSIONER TURNBULL: Second.

17 CHAIR MAY: A motion and a second.  
18 All those in favor, please say aye.

19 (Chorus of Ayes)

20 CHAIR MAY: Any opposed? No opposed.  
21 Okay. On to the next. So this is the proposed  
22 text for our letter to the Second Indian Head

1 Division Association Memorials Foundation.

2 "National Capital Memorial Advisory  
3 Commission reviewed the design for the second  
4 division memorial modification at the  
5 Commission's February 11th, 2020 meeting. The  
6 Commission appreciates the thoughtful design  
7 which aptly integrates an expansion of the  
8 memorial platform, and an introduction of two  
9 commemorative plinths into the original memorial  
10 and its 1960s expansion.

11 The design proposes an accessible  
12 curvilinear pathway to the memorial as well as  
13 accessible ramps to the central platform. The  
14 Commission notes that the design received concept  
15 approval at the Commission of Fine Arts on  
16 October 17th, 2019, and approval of comments on  
17 the concept at the National Capital Planning  
18 Commission's November 7th, 2019 meeting.

19 The Commission appreciates the  
20 opportunity to review the second division  
21 memorial modification design and anticipates its  
22 future completion." So understanding the fact

1 that there is also further design review at the  
2 Commission of Fine Arts and NCPC, I would ask if  
3 I could get a motion adopting that language?

4 COMMISSIONER WRIGHT: So moved.

5 CHAIR MAY: And a --

6 COMMISSIONER LUEBKE: Second.

7 CHAIR MAY: -- second. Perfect. So  
8 all of -- so with that I would call for votes.  
9 All those in favor, please say aye.

10 (Chorus of ayes)

11 CHAIR MAY: Any opposed? None. Okay.  
12 So now we are ready to move on. Thank you very  
13 much. That takes a couple items off the agenda.

14 So our first agenda item is the design  
15 presentation for the Peace Corp commemorative  
16 work. Commissioners have a copy of the design  
17 proposal in your briefing packets. It was also  
18 distributed electronically in advance.

19 By the way, I should also note if  
20 anybody is interested in those other proposals  
21 that we just voted on, those are also available  
22 on our website for the Memorial Advisory

1 Commission. So if you want download and view  
2 them you can see them there.

3 All right, back to Peace Corps.  
4 Congress approved Public Law 113-178 January 24,  
5 2014 authorizing the Peace Corps Commemorative  
6 Foundation to establish a commemorative work  
7 honoring the Peace Corps mission and ideals on  
8 which the Peace Corps was founded.

9 Commission last reviewed the Peace  
10 Corps commemorative work at site selection stage.  
11 The site is at the Louisiana Avenue Northwest,  
12 1st Street Northwest, and C Street Northwest.  
13 Mr. Roger Lewis, president and chairman of the  
14 Peace Corps Commemorative Foundation, will  
15 provide the design presentation. So Mr. Lewis.

16 MR. LEWIS: Thank you. From --

17 CHAIR MAY: Are you able to advance  
18 the slides from there?

19 MR. LEWIS: I'm going to assume that  
20 everybody has had a chance to look at the booklet  
21 and launch right into talking about the design  
22 concept.

1 CHAIR MAY: Sure. Can I ask one thing  
2 though? Your voice is a little soft. Can you  
3 tilt the microphone up and make sure --

4 MR. LEWIS: Yes.

5 CHAIR MAY: -- you're speaking very  
6 close to it.

7 MR. LEWIS: Is that better?

8 CHAIR MAY: Much better.

9 MR. LEWIS: How's that? Thank you.  
10 Anyway, I'd like you to know that what you're  
11 seeing is the culmination of actually a long  
12 process that began in 2015 with a design  
13 competition followed by a several years looking  
14 at alternative design concepts because this has  
15 proved to be a very challenging project, the site  
16 is very small but very well located.

17 And it's unlike so many of our --  
18 well, unlike most of our commemorative works,  
19 it's not a memorial. It's a commemorative work  
20 honoring an idea honoring the better angels of  
21 our nature as Americans, honoring something that  
22 is timeless.

1                   And so it was a big challenge for many  
2     designers, some of whom are people you've heard  
3     of to come in and do two things at once. Create  
4     a meaningful commemorative, and also a usable,  
5     attractive public park. So this is really a  
6     design that's intended to create at once a public  
7     park that's a destination that would be used by  
8     the people of this city, and by visitors, and  
9     neighbors of the site, as well as a place to  
10    honor the meaning and values of the Peace Corps.

11                  This just summarizes the time that  
12    it's taken to do this. This is my 11th year as  
13    president of this foundation. I think this  
14    summarizes very well the purpose. I'm not going  
15    to read all that. I hope you all can -- you can  
16    read it faster than I can say it.

17                  But it does I think indicate when you  
18    -- as you read that, that this is as I said not  
19    about loss. We're hoping this is a memorial that  
20    people come and visit and leave smiling and  
21    feeling good about the United States, about  
22    Americans, and about our connection to the world.

1                   Let me keep going. It's a site, I  
2                   want to talk about the site. We spent a year  
3                   looking at sites and selecting this site, this  
4                   little triangle that you see indicated in this  
5                   slide, which -- excuse me -- which is of course,  
6                   it's very small. It's less than 9,000 square  
7                   feet. It's essentially a traffic island today.  
8                   But it's of course very close to the Capitol and  
9                   the Mall. It's not far from Union Station. And  
10                  its location quite favorably located.

11                  And the site, you can see it -- is it  
12                  mark here? Yes, the little red triangle. Notice  
13                  that historically at one point some of you may  
14                  know that the Capitol grounds were intended to  
15                  occupy that rectangle of which this was the  
16                  northwest corner.

17                  Louisiana Avenue didn't exist. Was  
18                  not -- Louisiana was not in the L'Enfant Plan.  
19                  Louisiana Avenue was built in the 1930s running  
20                  diagonally up from Constitution Ave to Union  
21                  Station. So the site in this form has a fairly  
22                  limited history, and at one time after -- excuse

1 me -- this notion of creating this larger Capitol  
2 grounds precinct before that during that 19th  
3 century this was actually a subdivided parcel  
4 with houses on it.

5 And there you get a closer view and  
6 you see the connectivity if you will, the  
7 favorable location of this with respect to so  
8 many of the destination in Washington.

9 From this site, particularly in the  
10 winter, you can see the Capitol Dome. You can  
11 see the Taft Park. It's again all about  
12 location. Here are some views of the site. I  
13 think we have another image. Yes. The top image  
14 and the bottom image, winter and summer. You get  
15 a sense of where this is and why it's a location,  
16 while modest, very meaningful. Whoops, did I go  
17 too far? Yeah.

18 The other thing that is important to  
19 keep in mind that we have done to kind of get  
20 back to that little piece of history where this  
21 was part of the Capitol grounds, we think this  
22 site really wants to be an intensely vegetated,

1 modest park with both ground cover and trees.

2 So part of the strategy we're showing  
3 you today does make this -- or takes the position  
4 that this is going to be an extension of the  
5 heavily wooded, the heavily treed area to the  
6 east and the south that is the park. And really  
7 is making it if you will, a part of something  
8 bigger than itself.

9 This design now, this has been the --  
10 our design team, Larry Kirkland, who's a  
11 sculpture. He and Michael Vergason, landscape  
12 architects, two very talented designers, they  
13 were the -- for those of you who know Washington,  
14 the American Veterans Disabled for Life memorial,  
15 they were the designers of that.

16 What you're seeing here is really the  
17 result of a year of our design team responding to  
18 the very, very constructive critiques and  
19 suggestions made by the Commission of Fine Arts,  
20 the National Capital Planning Commission,  
21 National Park Service. I want to give a lot of  
22 credit to them because this is a quite different

1       scheme than we had when we first met with the  
2       Commission of Fine Arts in March of last year.

3               What this summarizes, again, how we've  
4       updated it, the main point I want to make about  
5       this is that we have gone to great effort to  
6       unify what were somewhat disparate elements that  
7       you'll see in a moment. A pergola that follows  
8       the path, a path leading to this ellipse, this  
9       intimate, somewhat more pedestrian-oriented  
10      scared space that is no longer symmetrically  
11      positioned. It's positioned to take account of  
12      topography and to exploit the view of the Capitol  
13      in the winter time.

14             So this is the latest plan, about 75  
15      percent of this site is vegetated, is greenscape.  
16      And you can see there's a lining of gingko trees  
17      along the west and north facing 1st and C  
18      Streets. We have an existing series of street  
19      trees that are some of them -- one or two of them  
20      are going to be taken down because they're not  
21      healthy, but the notion is to really re-tree and  
22      intensify, add more trees to this site rather

1       than having fewer trees.

2               It is really intended to be a park as  
3 well as a commemorative site. I'm going to run  
4 through these very quickly because I want to get  
5 you to the imagery.

6               This is really a work of sculpture  
7 made of stainless steel, and the leaves you see  
8 are glass in the spectrum of blues, greens and  
9 violet that are meant to evoke or have the  
10 association with earth and sky, and to complement  
11 the more intense green of the vegetation.

12              It's a kind of, if you will, a pergola  
13 that you can think of as a colonnade with canopy,  
14 and the idea of that is to bring that to  
15 reinforce this sense of journey along the pathway  
16 to the ellipse where there is a, you'll see in a  
17 moment, a map of the world on the surface of the  
18 ellipse. This is a suggesting the tree cover and  
19 the vegetation change through the seasons.

20              This gives you a good idea from a  
21 pedestrian view of what it's going to be like to  
22 approach this from the south from which really

1 most people are coming. And you can see the  
2 trees along the street to the left, that's 1st  
3 Street and the -- excuse me -- the vegetation and  
4 the other element of this, the more figurative  
5 element are these two granite benches with an  
6 outreaching hand at the end of each bench.

7 This is summer view, winter view --  
8 whoops, sorry -- looking from the northeast back  
9 towards the Mall. The Mall is just off the slide  
10 to the left. I think this is probably -- for me  
11 this is one of my favorite views of the design  
12 because it really captures the combination, the  
13 unification, the marriage of the walkway, the  
14 journey to the ellipse with the map of the world.

15 The continents are shown, but no  
16 national or political boundaries are shown. It's  
17 all about getting past barriers. The  
18 commemorative, the Peace Corps idea is about  
19 breaking through divisions and transcending  
20 barriers between peoples. You see the benches,  
21 you see the outreaching hands and how this all  
22 comes together.

1                   Here it is in the summer when it'll be  
2                   very shady, and we believe a lot of people who  
3                   are working in this area will probably come here  
4                   and sit, and in addition to perhaps thinking  
5                   about what the Peace Corps ideals are all about  
6                   and Americans' connection to the world, they can  
7                   eat lunch and have something to drink. This is  
8                   right next to the Jones Day law firm, some of you  
9                   may know that building on the corner at New  
10                  Jersey Avenue and C Street.

11                  Perhaps this gives you a clearer idea.  
12                  My biggest concern with the artist working on  
13                  this was to make sure he didn't leave out New  
14                  Zealand which is easy to miss down there in the  
15                  corner.

16                  Some winter/summer. This is looking  
17                  at it in elevation. And again, one of the  
18                  changes that we have made over the last year  
19                  which had a lot to do with the discussions we had  
20                  with the National Park Service and the Commission  
21                  on Fine Arts is making it much more transparent,  
22                  visually porous.

1                   The original design had not six  
2                   columns, but it had I think 75 or 80 individual  
3                   verticals back there, and it was really walling  
4                   off the -- again, I want to stress how much we  
5                   have done this in response to a lot of the great  
6                   suggestions made by the National Park Service,  
7                   the Commission of Fine Arts and NCPC.

8                   Again, that's summer time,  
9                   summer/winter. And then some street views and  
10                  how this will be perceived for people who are  
11                  driving along keeping in mind this is still a  
12                  kind of traffic island, and we think it will be -  
13                  - in its use of these materials, particularly the  
14                  canopy and, excuse me, the canopy and the glass  
15                  which will have illumination at night so that you  
16                  will see this even at night.

17                  But we think it's a well-balanced in  
18                  terms of it's being visually charismatic and  
19                  calling attention to the site without being  
20                  overly scaled, or too big or too invasive of the  
21                  vegetation on the site. We think it's been very  
22                  beautifully woven together. Maybe the word I'd

1 want to use is woven together.

2 One of the things that surprised me.  
3 When I went to there one night I realized there  
4 was a lot of ambient light. There's actually  
5 quite a bit of light during the night time. So  
6 it's not a super-dark setting, even though  
7 there's no onsite illumination. So at night with  
8 the LEDs installed in these leaves, this just  
9 gives you an idea of what it might appear to be  
10 at night.

11 So I think this is the last image.  
12 Again, one of the other things we think is really  
13 quite wonderful is in the way things are woven  
14 together is the interaction not only between the  
15 actual pieces, the more realistic, carved  
16 depiction of the benches and the hands and the  
17 pergola, but in the summer the light coming  
18 through this glass is going to cast shadows so  
19 you'll get an even more dynamic interaction  
20 between these elements. Whoops, I think that's -  
21 - so let me stop here. I think we're okay on  
22 time I hope.

1 CHAIR MAY: Yeah, that's fine. So  
2 we're going to break order just a bit because I  
3 understand that we've been joined by Congressman  
4 Mark Veasey who is here to testify on H.R. 5173,  
5 a bill to authorize the National Medal of Honor  
6 Museum Foundation to establish a commemorative  
7 work in Washington.

8 And so, Mr. Lewis, if you wouldn't  
9 mind taking a seat for a moment. And  
10 Congressman, please, we are very eager to hear  
11 your testimony. Thank you very much.

12 REP VEASEY: Thank you very much, and  
13 I'll thank you for allowing me to come up and  
14 speak, Peace commission -- Peace Corps, I know  
15 they're going to call votes here momentarily so I  
16 really, really do appreciate --

17 CHAIR MAY: Sure.

18 REP VEASEY: -- it very much. And  
19 also want to thank you for taking the time to  
20 consider this historic monument that would honor  
21 the more than 3,500 heroes that have demonstrated  
22 unparalleled courage in military service.

1                   Currently some of you may know that  
2                   there are only 71 Medal of Honor recipients that  
3                   are living today. And many of these recipients  
4                   are from Korea and World War -- I'm sorry, Korea  
5                   and the Vietnam era. And so we want to make sure  
6                   that the timing of this monument gets done just  
7                   because of the importance of these people that  
8                   are still currently living.

9                   I don't know if there are any Medal of  
10                  Honor recipients here today. We have one Medal  
11                  of Honor recipient that's here today -- two that  
12                  are here today. And it's my hope that we can  
13                  make this monument a reality so that the millions  
14                  of Americans and visitors from across the world  
15                  can see a memorial to honor your courage and  
16                  heroics. So thank you very much.

17                  The monument would be a living  
18                  memorial honoring an ever-growing list of  
19                  recipients who have served in military conflicts  
20                  since the civil War. And when our forefathers,  
21                  when planning the District of Columbia  
22                  specifically set land aside for monuments exactly

1       like this, monuments that not only memorialize  
2       our bravest members, but also set an example for  
3       all of us to aspire to.

4               And in addition to the monument, the  
5       other component of this legislation would  
6       designate the museum being built in the district  
7       that I represent in Arlington, Texas as the  
8       National Medal of Honor museum.

9               Again, my comments are very brief. I  
10      want to thank everyone for being here today and  
11      to our nation's Medal of Honor recipients that  
12      have bravely and valiantly served our country.  
13      So appreciate this time, and thank you very much.

14              CHAIR MAY: Thank you very much. Does  
15      anybody have any questions for the Congressman?  
16      No. Thank you very much for coming and taking  
17      the time to speak with us.

18              So we will go back to the regular  
19      order. Mr. Lewis, in case there are questions  
20      for you, so, you know, do we have any questions  
21      from the commission for Mr. Lewis before we get  
22      into our comments? I'm not see anyone having

1        questions.

2                        So we did not have anybody signed up  
3        in advance to comment on this design. But I  
4        would ask if there's anybody in the audience now  
5        who's seeking to speak about the Peace Corps  
6        commemorative design. Not seeing any. So we'll  
7        move straight into our own discussions.

8                        MR. LEWIS: Thank you very much,  
9        everyone.

10                      CHAIR MAY: So thank you. And so who  
11        would like to start us off from the commission?

12                      COMMISSIONER WRIGHT: I don't think  
13        agree with you that it's yet beautifully woven  
14        together. And I think it's much improved. The  
15        pergola, I wasn't a big fan in the beginning.  
16        And I think the scale is better, there's a better  
17        sense of what its function is and why you're  
18        doing it.

19                      I can't get over these benches. And  
20        I would imagine that they are very important to  
21        the memorial sponsors. And I get the concept.  
22        Of course, it's in your -- whatever you call it.

1 It's part of the central -- I don't know if you  
2 call it a -- it's not a slogan, but whatever. I  
3 get it's quite a literal reference.

4 But that's part of the problem. It's  
5 so literal and it's so -- I totally understand  
6 the idea. But I don't know that there is a way  
7 to execute in a way that's literal and  
8 identifiable as the outstretched hands, but make  
9 them elegant and beautiful.

10 And I'm sure that some people think  
11 that the current solution is. I just find them  
12 ungainly and incompatible with the rest of the  
13 design which is elegant and beautiful and coming  
14 along. And these things -- and on top of it, I  
15 can't tell from the current package, the last  
16 time I saw it, they were rendered with this very  
17 veiny marble.

18 And so the combination of -- and maybe  
19 that's changed, but the combination of the light  
20 which from the trees eventually and the pergola  
21 and all the sort of fluttering light that will be  
22 created by the sun, and the leaves, and the

1 pergola, then hits these incredibly busy, veiny  
2 stone benches and it's just feels like soft of a  
3 cacophony of a lot of over -- it feels  
4 overwrought almost.

5 But I don't know -- if you think back,  
6 there's a piece in the Rodin Museum called the  
7 Hand of God which I remember when I saw it, oh,  
8 gosh, 35 years ago made me cry. I just don't  
9 know that you can achieve, and I'm not saying  
10 everybody's got to be a Rodin to attempt, but I  
11 just don't know how these benches are -- you're  
12 going to be able to arrive at a solution that  
13 doesn't make it feel kitschy.

14 And to me it just feels like the  
15 awakening but it's not funny. It doesn't have  
16 sort of the -- it doesn't serve that function. I  
17 just don't know what to make of them.

18 And again, I understand how central it  
19 is thematically. But in execution, I can't see  
20 you getting there with them with making the  
21 literal reference to the outstretched hands. So  
22 for me it's really a deal breaker and sort of

1 diminishes the rest of the design.

2 CHAIR MAY: Thank you very much,  
3 Commissioner Wright. Mr. Turnbull, you're  
4 leaning forward. Are you ready to start?

5 COMMISSIONER TURNBULL: I lean forward  
6 a lot. I do that.

7 CHAIR MAY: Usually I can never see at  
8 the other end of the dais.

9 COMMISSIONER TURNBULL: I think that  
10 they've done a very good job of understanding the  
11 site. I think it's a very simple site, and I  
12 think the way that it's been laid out and  
13 attempted to do the circulation through it, I  
14 think works well.

15 The pergola, I don't really have a  
16 problem with the pergola unless you want to play  
17 around with the fins some more. I think the  
18 colors I think is very nice. I think intuitively  
19 I can see what it's going to do when the light  
20 hits it and shine coming through.

21 I do agree with Ms. Wright in a way  
22 that the -- a bench becoming an arm with a hand

1 is awkward. I think it's a little difficult to  
2 really try to -- it's like what does it really  
3 want to be? It's like it ends funny. It's like  
4 it's been severed. It just makes me feel  
5 uncomfortable looking at it from this standpoint.

6 It's almost like you want to see  
7 another hand finishing up on the other side, but  
8 then it becomes too literal, and it becomes a  
9 little bit going the other way that you don't  
10 want it go. So I struggle with the benches also.

11 I think the idea of having the world  
12 scene on the ground is a concept that is fine. I  
13 think that would work. But it's just how you get  
14 people around this centerpiece and not make it  
15 look, your word, Kitschy.

16 And I think it needs some more work.  
17 I think the benches and the hand, that that whole  
18 thing needs a little bit more progression to come  
19 up with something that feels better. But right  
20 now looking at this view, I feel very  
21 uncomfortable seeing what looks to be the end of  
22 a bench with a hand on the other side. It

1 doesn't really blend or form -- I'm not  
2 connecting with it in the way I think that the  
3 designers wanted you to connect with it.

4 CHAIR MAY: Thank you very much. Who  
5 else? Mr. Sherman?

6 COMMISSIONER SHERMAN: Talking about  
7 the benches. First of all, I'll say the staff  
8 appreciates the evolution of the design and sort  
9 of reduction in scale. Our concern about the  
10 benches are a little different -- we won't talk  
11 much about the design, but the infrastructure  
12 requirements given the monument design where it  
13 stands now, how much infrastructure is required  
14 underneath to keep those benches in place? And  
15 what is that going to do either new trees or  
16 existing tree root systems? Just a  
17 consideration.

18 And the other concern we have is we  
19 still feel like that old red oak tree could be  
20 accommodated somehow in the design. I know you  
21 looked at this, but we would ask you to really  
22 consider that tree before you -- and we know

1       you're going to be clearing a lot of other trees,  
2       but maybe that one tree could still be  
3       incorporated into the design somehow.

4               CHAIR MAY:   Okay.   Thank you very  
5       much.   Certainly.   Commissioner Fountain.

6               COMMISSIONER FOUNTAIN:   I'm generally  
7       aligned with most of the comments that have gone  
8       before.   I like a lot about this, and I like the  
9       overlay of messaging on a lot of features in this  
10      site.

11              You know, first of all, having worked  
12      across the street from this site for 15 years and  
13      know it well, I very much appreciate the overall  
14      site orientation and composition, and, you know,  
15      what I take is -- with the evolution of the  
16      design, a fairly simple elegance to this corner  
17      which I find, and pardon the pun, very peaceful.

18              I like the pergola very much for a  
19      number of reasons.   I like the touch of color  
20      which most memorials in this city could, you  
21      know, do lack.   And I find the blue and green  
22      representing the sea and the sky which are common

1 heritages of all mankind even more than the land  
2 is.

3 I find those both visually appealing  
4 and again, an important messaging in the site.  
5 Similarly with the map of the world without  
6 borders, I think speaks for itself as an  
7 important part of the Peace Corps mission.

8 I like the benches as elements in this  
9 site, but I, too, get hung up on the hands partly  
10 because it hasn't been clear to me what the  
11 messaging is to justify them. It's not clear to  
12 me whether they're holding or cupping something.  
13 People are going to want to sit in them I'm sure.  
14 Or whether they're beckoning, or whether they're  
15 -- or what they're doing.

16 The presentation says they represent  
17 giving and receiving. I don't see that  
18 necessarily. And so I'm left wondering  
19 sculpturally is there another way to convey the  
20 messaging that you're trying to present. Whether  
21 it needs an additional layer of messaging beyond  
22 what's already presented elsewhere in the site.

1 I wouldn't go so far to say that  
2 they're deal breaker for me. But given their  
3 prominence in the design, as I say, I'm not sure  
4 they're conveying a strong enough message to  
5 justify that prominence. And so I'm not sold on  
6 those yet.

7 COMMISSIONER MALONEY: Well, I think  
8 my thoughts are similar to what's already been  
9 expressed. I will say that the pergola seems to  
10 be the most successful element, and certainly far  
11 improved from the initial design. And actually,  
12 I think it enhances the overall context that it  
13 sits in. That area sort of needs something.

14 And in particular, the rendering that  
15 shows the pergola and its relationship to the  
16 Taft Carillon sort of improves the Taft Carillon  
17 in a way. I mean it just gives it a little bit  
18 more space and sense of setting. So that I think  
19 is all very successful.

20 And I don't think I have anything  
21 really to add about the issue of the hands. I  
22 mean obviously that's critical to the theme of

1 the memorial and I think the comments have  
2 already been pretty much stated on that.

3 COMMISSIONER LUEBKE: Mr. Chairman,  
4 I'm in a funny position here because a lot of the  
5 changes that have been pursued come out of a  
6 discussion that took place at the Commission of  
7 Fine Arts in its design review last fall, and I  
8 would say, you know, as someone who represents  
9 them as a staff member but not someone votes, it  
10 seems like there's a lot that's responsive to  
11 those comments.

12 I had sort of a procedural question  
13 therefore. What are we going with -- this is one  
14 of these issues with this Commemorative Works Act  
15 that we have a design review function here. What  
16 can I say? The Commission of Fine Arts has not  
17 seen this yet. It will see it in a week's time.  
18 But in a way I am not empowered to speak --

19 CHAIR MAY: Certainly.

20 COMMISSIONER LUEBKE: -- particularly.

21 CHAIR MAY: Right.

22 COMMISSIONER LUEBKE: So if you were

1 asking for a vote -- some kind of a vote of  
2 endorsement, I cannot vote.

3 CHAIR MAY: Understood. So it's been  
4 a while since we've done a design review, but in  
5 this circumstance what I would suggest would be  
6 the case for the other one later today is that we  
7 would simply communicate comments.

8 COMMISSIONER LUEBKE: Okay.

9 CHAIR MAY: The requirement is that we  
10 review, and it's not that we approve --

11 COMMISSIONER LUEBKE: Okay.

12 CHAIR MAY: -- or even that we vote to  
13 approve. I think that if we were to have a, you  
14 know, significantly differing opinions about  
15 things, you know, we might try to parse that a  
16 little bit in a letter. But it's basically just  
17 relaying the comments.

18 COMMISSIONER LUEBKE: Then I will  
19 simply say just a couple of things. And I would  
20 acknowledge that the tremendous evolution of the  
21 design to address a lot of these comments, the  
22 last time -- I just want to say, you know, quote,

1 one letter -- one sentence from the letter that  
2 we wrote that the Commission had raised concerned  
3 about the conceptual and formal framework.

4 "That the elements of the canopy,  
5 benches, and landscape seem dissociated, and that  
6 there is a sort of confusion where these elements  
7 are attempting to convey the same message in  
8 different ways." The hands, the canopy, et  
9 cetera.

10 I feel like, personally, that there  
11 has been some good progress in terms of refining  
12 the site design, the gesture of the canopy now as  
13 they had -- the Commission of Fine Arts suggested  
14 that maybe it become something that you can  
15 actually circulate under. I think there's much  
16 more unity to the site design.

17 They have always raised this question  
18 of the over-scaled hands, and I would say that  
19 probably remains an issue. Again, I cannot -- I  
20 don't want to get -- we're seeing it in the next  
21 week and I don't want to speak for the  
22 Commission.

1 CHAIR MAY: Certainly.

2 COMMISSIONER LUEBKE: Thanks.

3 CHAIR MAY: Thank you. I appreciate  
4 your commentary, and also the sensitivity of the  
5 situation. Sometimes it just kind of works out  
6 with the timing of these reviews. So I  
7 appreciate your comments.

8 COMMISSIONER MCMAHON: Thank you.  
9 Thanks for the opportunity. And new to this  
10 Commission, I haven't seen this before, the  
11 evolution. But I would join the general  
12 commentary of the other commissioners about the  
13 hands and how they fit into here and what the  
14 symbolism is. And it just doesn't seem to fit  
15 the rest of it.

16 It's a symbolic site and here we have  
17 some very realistic features to it. And I'm not  
18 sure what -- understand the purpose. Not sure it  
19 fits in with the rest of the thought process for  
20 this particular memorial. Thank you.

21 COMMISSIONER WRIGHT: I think actually  
22 I do understand. Well, I think it's supposed to

1 be a literal reference to the outstretched hands,  
2 correct? So I think once you read the mission  
3 statement of the Peace Corps, and I don't know  
4 what the memorial -- or the site -- if you have a  
5 plan for text anywhere that explains that. I  
6 mean somebody walking along who doesn't know the  
7 mission statement of the Peace Corps may not get  
8 it. I mean to me it's very literal, and that is  
9 the problem.

10 And to what Mr. Luebke just read from  
11 the Commission's letter, I think that's part of  
12 the problem because the visual language that's  
13 used for the pergola feels incompatible with the  
14 visual language of the hands as well.

15 So it's a real challenge because I'm  
16 sure that the memorial sponsors are really big  
17 into having a literal reference to the  
18 outstretched hands. I can imagine a group of  
19 people saying, yes, that has to be in there. I  
20 just would recommend looking at some other way to  
21 integrate the idea because the idea is obviously  
22 central to the Peace Corps.

1 CHAIR MAY: Okay. Thank you very  
2 much. So unless there are further comments, what  
3 I would suggest is that we will capture these  
4 into a letter, circulate that for the  
5 Commission's review. And then once finalized,  
6 share that with Mr. Lewis and his foundation. So  
7 any other comments? No. All set. Thank you  
8 very much, Mr. Lewis. We'll see you again soon.

9 Okay. So we're on to our second  
10 agenda item which is -- you will hear testimony  
11 regarding H.R. 5046, Global War on Terrorism  
12 Memorial Location Act. This bill would authorize  
13 the location of a memorial on the National Mall  
14 to commemorate and honor the members of the Armed  
15 Forces that served on active duty in support of  
16 the Global War on Terrorism.

17 It is the second piece of legislation  
18 to move through the Congress regarding the Global  
19 War on Terrorism Memorial. The authority to  
20 establish the memorial was approved by the  
21 Congress and enacted into law in August 2017.

22 The H.R. 5046 was introduced by

1 Congressman Jason Crow on November 12th, 2019.  
2 It was referred to the House National Resources  
3 Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and  
4 Public Lands. It would authorize the  
5 establishment of the memorial on one of three or  
6 four locations I think. Three locations within  
7 the National Mall as described. And the area  
8 described is the Reserve in the Commemorative  
9 Works Act.

10 So just to refresh the memory of the  
11 Commission, we had considered the original  
12 legislation for this. It was a bit unusual, and  
13 it didn't seem to fit well with the definitions  
14 or the restrictions that were in place through  
15 the Commemorative Works Act.

16 And in the end it was passed into law,  
17 the Global War on Terrorism Memorial Foundation  
18 or group rather has been trying to advance this.  
19 Rather than go through the area 1 authorization  
20 process, they elected to try to persuade the  
21 Congress to authorize something within the  
22 reserve. And so that's what we're hearing

1 testimony about today.

2 Now I understand the first person to  
3 speak today would be Jon Green who is  
4 representing Congressman Jason Crow and also Mike  
5 Gallagher, the House sponsors of H.R. 5046. So,  
6 Mr. Green, are you here? Oh, there you are.  
7 Thank you.

8 MR. GREEN: I'd just like to begin by  
9 introducing myself. I'm Jon Green, Congressman  
10 Crow's military legislative assistant assisting  
11 the Congressman and Congressman Gallagher in  
12 presenting their testimony today. I would just  
13 like to take a moment to recognize and thank all  
14 of the Global War on Terrorism Memorial  
15 Foundation supporters and leaders in this room  
16 today. So on behalf of Congressman Crow and  
17 Gallagher, I'd just like to begin.

18 Chairman May and esteemed members of  
19 the National Capital Memorial Advisory  
20 Commission. Thank you for the opportunity to  
21 appear before you as the sponsors of H.R. 5046,  
22 the Global War on Terrorism Memorial Location

1 Act.

2 This is a bipartisan bill that creates  
3 an exemption to the Commemorative Works Act in  
4 order to authorize the building of the approved  
5 Global War on Terrorism, or GWOT, Memorial within  
6 the National Reserve.

7 For almost 20 years both uniformed and  
8 civilian personnel have served in nearly 80  
9 countries around the world to prevent the spread  
10 of terrorism. More than 2 million service  
11 members have served in the Global War on  
12 Terrorism.

13 Seventeen thousand of those service  
14 members, Department of Defense civilians,  
15 diplomats, aid workers, intelligence officers,  
16 first responders and contractors gave what  
17 President Lincoln described as their last full  
18 measure of devotion in the hopes that their  
19 service and sacrifice would secure a safer and  
20 more prosperous life for future generations.

21 More than 53,000 service members  
22 suffering from life altering injuries due to

1       their service in support of the Global War on  
2       Terrorism, nearly 1 million veterans now live  
3       with a service-connected disability due to their  
4       deployments in Iraq and Afghanistan.

5               Some will live the remainder of their  
6       lives in a state of total dependency on their  
7       families. All will struggle for the rest of  
8       their lives with the memories of the comrades in  
9       arms that did not make it home to their families.

10              When the World Trade Center Towers  
11       fell in 2001, no one predicted that future  
12       generations would be called upon decades later to  
13       fight on the same mountains and on the same  
14       streets as their parents. Never in the history  
15       of this country has a child been born during a  
16       conflict deployed in that same conflict.

17              The service and sacrifice of our  
18       nation's finest over the past two decades is a  
19       testament to their selfless bravery to keep our  
20       country safe, and help those who have suffered  
21       under the yoke of extremism around the world.  
22       Many more may do the same before this conflict

1 ends.

2 The Global War on Terrorism changed  
3 the course of American history and the lives of  
4 millions of service members, first responders,  
5 and civil servants. The fight against terrorism  
6 differs from the wars of the past which centered  
7 on confronting an invading power or deposing a  
8 tyrannical dictator.

9 This is a fight against extremists  
10 that instill fear in civilians to achieve their  
11 fundamentalist goals. It is a fight that is not  
12 constrained by geography, religion or other  
13 factors. And is a fight in defense of the values  
14 prized by Americans and free people across the  
15 world.

16 Both the location and timeliness of  
17 the Global War on Terrorism Memorial's  
18 construction are critical. Space in the National  
19 Reserve is dedicated to the men and women in our  
20 nation's history that provided the leadership the  
21 country needed to break regressive barriers, and  
22 to events that have defined our shared

1 experience.

2 President Lincoln, the World Wars,  
3 Vietnam, Korea, Martin Luther King, Jr., are also  
4 remembered. The multi-generational Global War on  
5 Terrorism has similarly come to define an era of  
6 our nation's history and altered the course of  
7 global events. We must seize this moment to  
8 commemorate the service and sacrifice of  
9 Americans in pursuit of a mission that has  
10 spanned nearly two decades and continues to this  
11 day.

12 Moreover, those of us who have served  
13 have worked to help our fellow veterans  
14 understand the power of place. This memorial  
15 will provide the millions that have served and  
16 millions of others impacted by the Global War on  
17 Terrorism with a sacred place to gather, reflect,  
18 remember, and heal. We urge the Commission to  
19 support the Global War on Terrorism Memorial  
20 Location Act and the construction of the memorial  
21 within the National Reserve. Thank you.

22 CHAIR MAY: Thank you very much. I'm

1       sorry, Mr. Green, before you sit down. Does  
2       anybody have any questions for Mr. Green? Well,  
3       we just made you walk back for nothing. Sorry  
4       about that. That's the drill.

5               So next we have Michael Rodriguez, CEO  
6       and president of the Global War on Terrorism  
7       Memorial Foundation testifying on behalf of H.R.  
8       5046. I understand that Mr. Rodriguez will share  
9       his time with Joe Kent, Maggie Duskin and Isaia  
10      Vimont.

11             Mr. Rodriguez, would you please share  
12      your testimony and then introduce all of your  
13      colleagues to testify. And I think we've allowed  
14      15 minutes for this, so if we can try to keep to  
15      that given the long agenda, we appreciate it.

16             MR. RODRIGUEZ: Yes, sir, I  
17      understand. Well, first I would like to actually  
18      recognize the two distinguished gentlemen sitting  
19      here to my left for, you know, earning the  
20      highest award for valor, courage and selfless  
21      service this nation has. So I thank you both.  
22      I'm humbled to stand here in your presence.

1                   I would like to also begin by saying  
2                   -- or continue saying I'm humbled to be standing  
3                   before each and every one of you, the National  
4                   Capital Memorial Advisory Commission. My name is  
5                   Michael Rodriguez and I do have the undeserved  
6                   honor of leading the GWOT Memorial Foundation.

7                   I was blessed to serve this great  
8                   nation of ours in the United States Army for over  
9                   21 years. I'm proud of my service, and had the  
10                  injuries I received in combat not forced my  
11                  medical retirement, I would still be serving  
12                  today. I'm even more proud to be the son of a  
13                  Vietnam veteran, grandson to World War II  
14                  veterans as well as being married to a woman who  
15                  served for 21 years and a father to a son who's  
16                  currently serving in the 82nd Airborne Division.

17                  Between the three of us we have served  
18                  a total of 46 years in uniform and deployed over  
19                  16 times and counting. I can honestly say that  
20                  the most challenging deployments for me were not  
21                  the nine in which I participated in, but the  
22                  deployments where I watched my loved ones go into

1       harm's way. Today I come before this commission  
2       as a veteran who served, a spouse of a veteran  
3       who has served, and a father whose son is  
4       currently serving.

5               When we received the invitation to  
6       appear before this Commission on January 22nd, it  
7       was met with enthusiasm throughout the entire  
8       foundation. We are excited to begin this first  
9       conversation with each of you as well as the  
10      commissions and offices you represent so that  
11      together we may honor the brave men and women who  
12      have stepped forward to serve in our nation's  
13      longest war.

14             We felt it would be best to take a  
15      chronological approach to address how the GWOT  
16      Memorial Foundation got here today following the  
17      passage of the Global War on Terrorism War  
18      Memorial Act in August of 2017.

19             Fully recognizing the immense  
20      responsibility and duty taken on by the  
21      foundation following the signing of that act, and  
22      even with the incredible team that exists within

1 the foundation, we felt it would be unwise to  
2 plan in a bubble and determine where the memorial  
3 should be built solely with our voices and  
4 opinions.

5 The foundation understood that this  
6 memorial belongs to all Americans. In order to  
7 capture the American voice, we needed to speak  
8 with the American people. Based on our vision  
9 and guiding principles, the foundation developed  
10 a program of requirements for the memorial  
11 following an extensive, inclusive, and  
12 interactive outreach to a variety of  
13 stakeholders.

14 These groups included foundation  
15 leadership board, advisory board, foundation  
16 ambassadors, veterans, various ranks of active  
17 duty military, friends and family of the military  
18 including Gold Star and Blue Star families as  
19 well as a sampling of the national community to  
20 include faith leaders. Allow me to provide a  
21 glimpse into the population of Americans who  
22 participated during the discussion groups held at

1 Fort Bragg in early of 2019.

2 We spoke with 66 active duty service  
3 members of various ranks and years of service.  
4 This small group represented almost 800 years of  
5 service and nearly 200 deployments amongst them  
6 alone. In this group we had three-foreign-born  
7 service members as well as several dual military  
8 and multigenerational GWOT veteran families.

9 A 20 question survey with both  
10 qualitative and quantitative queries was  
11 submitted to each of these participating  
12 individuals in order to generate responses to be  
13 held in confidence. Those not familiar with the  
14 foundation and memorial initiative participated  
15 in group work sessions that were facilitated by  
16 the use of a precedent work book highlighting the  
17 existing memorial sites on and adjacent to the  
18 National Mall as well as synopsis of other  
19 relevant memorials.

20 The responses of the survey questions  
21 were thoughtful and heartfelt. Many respondents  
22 were highly appreciative of the effort to create

1 a GWOT memorial, and to solicit opinions on how  
2 it should be conceived.

3 When a sufficient number of  
4 participants speaking for the various  
5 stakeholders was achieved, the data gathering was  
6 determined to be complete. The memorial program  
7 was extracted from the data collected.

8 While opinions did vary in emphasis,  
9 there was a great deal of commonality and shared  
10 sentiment. In particular there was significant  
11 agreement that the extent and duration of the  
12 sacrifices related to the GWOT, Global War on  
13 Terror, needed to be prominently memorialized in  
14 the Reserve alongside other major conflicts.

15 There was also a major agreement that  
16 the memorial should be highly accessible, a place  
17 conducive to contemplation and remembrance,  
18 appropriately lit at night, and preferably  
19 including interpretive content and available  
20 support facilities.

21 After an extensive analysis of eight  
22 potential sites including daytime and night time

1 site analyses within the Reserve and adjacent to  
2 it, three sites were chosen as best meeting the  
3 program criteria.

4 These site recommendations as well as  
5 the extensive site studies are in the potential  
6 site books that sit before you today. These site  
7 recommendations are also the basis of the current  
8 legislation H.R. 5046, and have been put before  
9 the 535 elected officials who represent the  
10 people of America.

11 It is important to note that every  
12 single participant in our discussion groups was  
13 educated on the topography and process of  
14 building the memorial within our nation's  
15 capital. They thoroughly understood that for  
16 this memorial to be built within the Reserve that  
17 the foundation would require Congressional  
18 approval.

19 However, we were adamant about not  
20 letting that fact determine their responses to  
21 the questionnaire and subsequent discussion  
22 groups. We assured them that it was the

1 foundation's responsibility to take whatever  
2 steps were necessary for the voices of the  
3 American people to be heard.

4           Following the completion of our  
5 executive summary and unanimous approval by our  
6 esteemed board of directors, the foundation  
7 plotted a course to build a national GWOT  
8 Memorial within the reserve, our first step was  
9 to sit down with, you, Mr. Chairman, Peter May,  
10 to make him aware of our course of action as well  
11 as seek his guidance. He advised us that we can  
12 only receive authorization to be on the Reserve  
13 from Congress, and absent that, they can only  
14 assign to area one or two.

15           Since it does take an act of Congress  
16 to be allowed on the Reserve, it is rare indeed  
17 but it has happened. This includes the Martin  
18 Luther King Memorial, the Museum of African  
19 American History and Culture, the Korean War  
20 Memorial Wall of remembrance, and a single plaque  
21 on the World War II Memorial honoring Senator Bob  
22 Dole.

1                   We also sat down with the Energy and  
2                   National Resources staff in the Senate and they  
3                   informed the same. Following these  
4                   conversations, the foundation began our strategic  
5                   planning which led us to the introduction of H.R.  
6                   5046.

7                   For nearly two decades service  
8                   members, civilians, their families and supports  
9                   have courageously waged a Global War on Terror  
10                  that has no end in sight. Consider this, today's  
11                  war is fought by a smaller percentage of  
12                  Americans than ever before with just 0.6 percent  
13                  of our population currently serving in uniform.  
14                  But total deployment times per service member are  
15                  equal to or greater than those of previous  
16                  generations.

17                  As of April 2019, roughly 22,000  
18                  troops were serving in Afghanistan, Iraq, and  
19                  Syria with an additional 65,622 U.S. military and  
20                  civilian personnel supporting broader contingency  
21                  operations. From September 11th to April 2019  
22                  about 6,967 service members died in the Global

1 War on Terror and overseas contingency  
2 operations, and 52,902 were wounded.

3 According to the United States  
4 department of Labor, from September 11th to April  
5 2019 about 3,413 civilian workers were killed in  
6 Afghanistan and Iraq, and 38,953 sustained work-  
7 related injuries. More than 3.9 million  
8 Americans volunteered for service since September  
9 11th, 2001.

10 From September 11th, 2001 to September  
11 2015, 2.77 million service members served on more  
12 than 5.4 million deployments. On average, post-  
13 9/11 veterans have spent one out of every three  
14 years of their military life away from their  
15 family and loved ones.

16 We believe the selfless service by all  
17 volunteer armed forces and civilians to defend  
18 our nation is the most compelling reason this  
19 generation has earned recognition alongside the  
20 nation's other major war memorials. The yard  
21 stick utilized to measure services sacrificed  
22 should not be defined solely on lives lost in

1       this conflict.

2               This memorial will be the first for  
3       the men and women who have died fighting, those  
4       who continue to fight, and those who are still  
5       joining the fight against terrorism. We have  
6       children who were born into a time of war that  
7       have spanned enough time for them to enlist in  
8       the fight in that very same war.

9               The Global War on Terrorism Memorial  
10       will be a lasting tribute to the courage and  
11       sacrifice of all who have served in the nation's  
12       longest war to protect our country while  
13       inspiring all Americans to stand united behind  
14       those who continue to serve.

15              The memorial will honor -- it will  
16       salute all served in this conflict, service  
17       members, civilians, and their families. This  
18       memorial will heal, it will provide a focal point  
19       for healing and reflection on a complex multi-  
20       generational war. This memorial will empower.

21              It will engage and educate civilian  
22       and military communities to build mutual

1 understanding. This memorial will unite. It  
2 will foster and sustain the same sense of  
3 patriotism that brought all Americans together in  
4 the wake of September 11th, 2001.

5           Upon completion, this memorial will be  
6 the most inclusive, broad, and diverse war  
7 memorial ever built. This functional piece of  
8 art which will adorn our nation's capital will  
9 serve as a focal point defining a conflict  
10 spanning multiple generations honoring the brave  
11 men and women who stepped forward to serve. It  
12 will capture who we represent as a nation as well  
13 as our combined strength and willingness to stand  
14 firm in the face of terror and threats to our  
15 very way of life.

16           The Global War on Terrorism Memorial  
17 should rest on the same solemn grounds as World  
18 War II, Korean War and Vietnam War Memorials. By  
19 doing so, we can show that generations of  
20 Americans who have served and will serve in this  
21 war and that their service is equally valued by  
22 our country.

1                   In the words of one of our lead  
2       cosponsors, Congressman Mike Gallagher, "If we're  
3       going to continue passing the torch of democracy  
4       from one generation to the next, then we need to  
5       build this memorial so that the future  
6       generations never forget their duty to do the  
7       same."   End quote.

8                   If we don't rightfully honor the brave  
9       men and women who fight for our country today by  
10      building this memorial within the Reserve as per  
11      the wishes of the American people, who will fight  
12      for tomorrow?   Thank you for your time.

13                  CHAIR MAY:   Thank you.   Were others  
14      from your group going to testify as well?

15                  MR. RODRIGUEZ:   Yes.

16                  CHAIR MAY:   Okay.   I think we'll hold  
17      off on questions until --

18                  MR. RODRIGUEZ:   Yes.

19                  CHAIR MAY:   -- you've all of course --  
20      yes.

21                  MR. RODRIGUEZ:   So Joe Kent was unable  
22      to make it in.   He's on there.   However, I have

1 his remarks. They're short, so I would like to  
2 enter them into the record.

3 CHAIR MAY: Yes. And we actually have  
4 a number of other submissions --

5 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Yes.

6 CHAIR MAY: -- of testimony that are  
7 -- I assume people who are not here to testify.  
8 But we received a lot of other written  
9 submissions, and they've all been distributed to  
10 the members of the commission.

11 MR. RODRIGUEZ: I understand. I'm  
12 just going to read Joe's statement if you don't  
13 mind. "The Kent Family statement. The post-9/11  
14 wars -- excuse me -- by Joe Kent. The Post 9/11  
15 wars shaped a generation of volunteer warriors  
16 that I am proud to call my family.

17 My wife, senior Chief petty officer  
18 Shannon Kent and I made these wars our lives'  
19 work and eagerly volunteered to serve as much as  
20 we could. Between my wife and I, we have 36  
21 years of combined service and over 96 months of  
22 combat deployments.

1                   This may seem like a large number, but  
2                   we are far from unique. This is our nation's  
3                   longest war and the only war fought entirely by  
4                   an all-volunteer force. This long war has  
5                   largely been fought by the same people and  
6                   families for its entirety.

7                   This eagerness to serve is a tribute  
8                   to the American experiment. Young men and women  
9                   know America is something worth fighting and  
10                  dying for. However, the danger in one small  
11                  segment of the population serving is the  
12                  disconnect that develops between the American  
13                  people and the wars fought in our name.

14                  Supporting H.R. 5046 and placing a  
15                  lasting memorial on the Reserve adjacent to the  
16                  seats of our national power and the monuments the  
17                  leaders who built this country will motivate all  
18                  Americans to take an interest in our nation's  
19                  longest war, and hopefully take an interest in  
20                  why we fight wars in the future." End remarks.  
21                  For content, Joe Kent buried his wife a little  
22                  over a year ago. She was killed in Syria of

1       2019. I'll be followed by Maggie Duskin.

2                   MS. DUSKIN: Hello. My name is Maggie  
3 Duskin, and October of 2012 I got the fatal knock  
4 on the door. My husband, Chief Warrant officer  
5 II Michael Duskin, Big Mike as he was known in  
6 our community, had been killed in Afghanistan  
7 while on his seventh combat deployment in support  
8 of the Global War on Terrorism.

9                   This came as a hugest shock to our  
10 entire community as he was the epitome of a Green  
11 Beret. He was six foot-seven and 280ish pounds.  
12 He lived and breathed to defend our country. His  
13 dad once asked him, "Why do you continue to  
14 deploy when you could easily become an  
15 instructor?"

16                   His reply was, "I'll continue to take  
17 the fight to the enemy's door so that my country  
18 and family does not have to fight on their  
19 homeland." His father served three tours in  
20 Vietnam and both of his uncles had served, so he  
21 understood but he didn't like it.

22                   Our oldest son, Nathan, was stationed

1 in Germany at the time that my husband was  
2 killed. He was able to get on the Angel Flight  
3 and bring my husband home. Nathan, my oldest,  
4 will be medically retiring from the Army after  
5 serving 15 years and five combat deployments.

6 During one of those deployments, his  
7 unit came under sniper fire and he was shot in  
8 the ear. He has lost most of the hearing in that  
9 ear, and after more surgeries than we can count  
10 he still picks shrapnel out of his ear and face  
11 and neck. He will be medically retiring due to  
12 injuries -- due to those injuries and many  
13 others.

14 Eight months after my husband's death,  
15 my youngest son graduated high school and joined  
16 the Army to fulfill his lifelong dream of  
17 becoming an Army Ranger. He is currently  
18 stationed in Savannah at Hunter Army Air field.  
19 He has served on four combat deployments in  
20 support of the Global War on Terrorism. He is  
21 only 24 years old.

22 I also have an 18 year old daughter at

1 home. Together we have sent our boys off on 16  
2 deployments. There has never been a time in her  
3 life when a family member or someone she knows  
4 has not been deployed in direct support of the  
5 Global War.

6 I recently participated in a wreath-  
7 laying ceremony at the 3rd and 4th Special Forces  
8 Group Memorial Walk. There was 60 wreaths laid.  
9 I personally know 30 of those families.

10 They say that only 1 percent of the  
11 U.S. population serves in the military, and of  
12 those, only 2 percent serve in special  
13 operations. In my little community, it's more  
14 like 97 percent.

15 My family, like so many others in our  
16 community, are multi-generational service  
17 members. Most of America not only doesn't know  
18 anyone that's serving, but they are for the most  
19 part untouched by the loss that military families  
20 feel.

21 I strongly feel that the national  
22 Global War on Terrorism Memorial should be built

1 on one of the sites found in the House Resolution  
2 5046. This would allow all of our citizens who  
3 have served, are serving, and will serve to be  
4 honored in a way that is fitting of the people  
5 like my husband, sons, and all that live in my  
6 community.

7 It needs to have a presence and a  
8 location fitting of people that have names like  
9 Big Mike. It needs to be located here because of  
10 the so many men and women that serve, their  
11 father's served in Vietnam, their grandfathers  
12 served and fought in World War II. Millions of  
13 visitors to our nation's beautiful capital city  
14 as well as the people being honored can do this  
15 while they walk and talk, remember loved ones  
16 that have also fought in other battles.

17 This is a time in our country's  
18 history, it's the very first time that we have  
19 whole generations of kids that don't remember  
20 what life was like before 9/11. We have kids  
21 that are being raised without having met their  
22 parent because they were killed in action before

1 they were born. These sacrifices need to be  
2 honored.

3 The men and women that fought and are  
4 still fighting like my son need to know that  
5 their country appreciates them. The first men  
6 and women that left for the very beginning of the  
7 GWOT are now reaching retirement age if they  
8 haven't retired due to medical issues already.

9 They need to know that their country  
10 loves and honors them and they need to be able to  
11 take their children and grandchildren to a place  
12 so that their stories can be told, the scars of  
13 surviving when so many haven't can heal, and that  
14 I ask that you help us get this built. Thank  
15 you.

16 CHAIR MAY: Thank you.

17 MR. VIMONT: Mr. Chairman, members of  
18 the board, ladies and gentlemen, I too am humbled  
19 to stand before you. And I also want you to know  
20 how honored I am to be in the presence of two of  
21 our medal of honor recipients today. Thank you  
22 for your service.

1                   My name is Isaia Vimont. I am a U.S.  
2 Army veteran, a Gold Star and a Blue Star father.  
3 I was eight years old when I told my mother that  
4 I wanted to be a soldier when I grow up. I  
5 joined the Army from the small islands of Samoa  
6 after graduating high school.

7                   I've had my shares of combat  
8 deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan serving  
9 alongside some of the most patriotic and fearless  
10 warriors who willingly sacrificed for America.  
11 I've met some great people and made lifelong  
12 friends along the way. Sadly we bid farewell to  
13 some who made the ultimate sacrifice and later to  
14 those who succumbed to their combat injuries.

15                  I've been blessed with the opportunity  
16 to serve and lead our nation's precious resources  
17 both in peace time and in combat during my 34  
18 plus years wearing the uniform of the greatest  
19 country on Earth.

20                  My wife and I have five children. Our  
21 oldest son Tim has just graduated high school  
22 when I returned from one of my deployments to

1 Iraq in 2005. He was groomed in his youth to  
2 serve a two-year mission for our church, and then  
3 followed by attending college to play football.  
4 But Tim surprised his mother and me when he told  
5 us that he decided to join the Army.

6 I asked the question, "Why?" His  
7 humble response was I, quote, "Dad, I've been  
8 watching the news. I saw many of our troops  
9 killed in action. I feel it's my turn to serve."  
10 Close quote. I was touched and worried that my  
11 son was willing to put his life on the line  
12 knowing fully well the outcome of war.

13 After basic, AIT, and Airborne school,  
14 he was assigned to the 173rd Airborne brigade  
15 combat team in Vicenze, Italy. I was his  
16 brigade's command sergeant major during our 15  
17 month deployment to Afghanistan in 2007. His  
18 platoon was based out of the Korangal Valley as  
19 highlighted by Sebastian Junger in his  
20 documentary Restrepo. It was there fighting  
21 alongside his brothers when he was killed in  
22 action fighting the enemy forces.

1                   Our oldest daughter was a senior in  
2 college when she came home for the holidays after  
3 her first semester. We were surprised when she  
4 told us that she decided to join the Army.  
5 Despite our efforts to persuade her otherwise,  
6 she was set on becoming a soldier.

7                   She added, I quote, "Dad, I know that  
8 your next deployment will be your last hoorah  
9 before you retire. I want Fort Bragg to be my  
10 first assignment after basic training, AIT, and  
11 Airborne school. And I want to deploy with you  
12 to Afghanistan." Closed quote.

13                  It was my honor to deploy with her to  
14 Afghanistan in 2013 and 2014 where she was  
15 assigned to the ISAF joint command headquarters.  
16 She participated in the Afghan election ballot  
17 security mission. She contributed to the success  
18 of the communication infrastructure both in the  
19 ISAF and IJC headquarters. She is currently  
20 serving in JBLM with the America's First Corps,  
21 and will be a PSC'ed into Kuwait in April of this  
22 year.

1                   Our youngest daughter who was a  
2                   sophomore in college decided to sit out her  
3                   junior year and join the Army. After basic, AIT,  
4                   and Airborne school, her first assignment was  
5                   with the 1st Special Forces Group on Joint Base  
6                   Lewis-McChord as an intel analyst. She deployed  
7                   with her unit to Afghanistan in the spring of  
8                   2018 where she traveled throughout her unit's  
9                   footprint to provide needed intel capability and  
10                  support to the operators.

11                 Our fourth oldest was the first of our  
12                 children to graduate from college with a double  
13                 major. He coached high school football and  
14                 taught high school PE during his first year after  
15                 graduating college. He dreamed of an opportunity  
16                 to go to Afghanistan where his brother was killed  
17                 in action.

18                 He was hired by a contracting  
19                 organization to be an air stat operator in  
20                 Afghanistan. There he was assigned to the U.S.  
21                 embassy in Kabul to provide aerial coverage of  
22                 the embassy and its surrounding points of

1 interest. He witnessed and reported on several  
2 enemy IEDs, VBEDs and suicidal attacks during his  
3 tenure there.

4 Five members of my family willingly  
5 volunteered to go where others failed to go.  
6 Like all our men and women in uniform, they ran  
7 towards the sounds of the guns where others run  
8 in the opposite direction. They knew fully well  
9 the outcome of war, but they choose to sign up  
10 anyway. To quote a line from Abraham Lincoln's  
11 Gettysburg Address, I quote, "The world will no  
12 longer remember what we say here, but it can  
13 never forget what they did here." Closed quote.

14 A monument is a powerful, visible  
15 reminder of the great sacrifice and service by  
16 those who made the ultimate sacrifice and those  
17 who served. Each generation has erected  
18 monuments that speak to their era which becomes a  
19 place of honor, of healing, and of educating the  
20 next generation.

21 These powerful edifices serve as a  
22 testament to their bravery, commitment, selfless

1 service and patriotism. There is a way that we  
2 connect to and learn from our past and appreciate  
3 their contributions to the freedom we enjoy.

4 The location of the National Global  
5 War on Terrorism Memorial within the Reserve is  
6 just as important as building the memorial  
7 itself. We need to show that their service is  
8 equal to those of Vietnam, Korea and World War  
9 II.

10 It needs to be a place where kings,  
11 queens, presidents, rulers, magistrates and  
12 citizens will come and visit, come in a way in  
13 awe of the spirit they felt there and inspired by  
14 their acts of valor. In closing, let us never  
15 forget and let us always remember. Thank you.

16 CHAIR MAY: Thank you very much.  
17 Thank you for your service and your family's  
18 service to all of our speakers. I don't know if  
19 we have anyone else that signed up in advance. I  
20 don't think we did. So now I would ask -- well,  
21 first of all, does anybody on the commission have  
22 any questions for any of the speakers we just

1 heard from?

2 COMMISSIONER SHERMAN: No questions,  
3 but I just wanted to take the opportunity to say  
4 thank you to fellow soldiers and family members.  
5 I currently serve as a reserve officer, a colonel  
6 who recently lost a soldier so I understand the  
7 sacrifice and the dedication that you so  
8 eloquently discuss. Thank you.

9 CHAIR MAY: No questions for you.  
10 Thank you very much.

11 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Thank you all.

12 COMMISSIONER FOUNTAIN: I've got one,  
13 Peter, I'm sorry.

14 CHAIR MAY: Oh.

15 COMMISSIONER FOUNTAIN: Just got one.  
16 Just for information, since I wasn't on this  
17 Commission when they considered the original  
18 legislation, what do you consider the parameters  
19 of the War on Terror?

20 MR. RODRIGUEZ: So Post-9/11.

21 COMMISSIONER FOUNTAIN: Across the  
22 world, or in particular --

1 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Yes, the Global War on  
2 Terror as defined by, you know, the Department of  
3 Defense.

4 COMMISSIONER FOUNTAIN: All right.  
5 Thank you.

6 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Thank you.

7 CHAIR MAY: Okay. So we have  
8 completed all the testimony we know of folks who  
9 signed up in advance. Is there anybody in the  
10 audience who wishes to speak on this topic? Not  
11 seeing any indications.

12 So I'd like to thank all the speakers  
13 and would note that in addition to testimony, we  
14 have received written statements from more than  
15 ten organizations and individuals. Again, that  
16 information was distributed to the members of the  
17 commission. Many of the statements represented  
18 veteran's organizations with members who served  
19 in the Global War on Terror.

20 So we'll move straight into a  
21 discussion of the bill. As stated earlier, it  
22 would authorize the location of a memorial on the

1 National Mall, and it names three specific  
2 locations.

3 As many here know, the Commemorative  
4 Works Act allows for memorials of exceptional  
5 importance to be located close to the memorial --  
6 or sorry, close to the National Mall within area  
7 one as defined by the Act.

8 The Act further defines the process  
9 for making that determination and requiring first  
10 that the Secretary of the Interior or  
11 administrator of the General Services  
12 Administration to determine that the proposed  
13 subject of commemoration is of preeminent and  
14 lasting historical significance to our country.

15 Based on that determination, the  
16 Congress must pass legislation to authorize the  
17 location of a site within area one. H.R. 5046  
18 would bypass that product and authorize the  
19 memorial to be placed on one of three sites  
20 within the Reserve.

21 First the Commemorative Works Act  
22 defines is the cross-access of the Mall which

1 generally extends from the United States Capitol  
2 to the Lincoln Memorial and from the White House  
3 to the Jefferson Memorial. The Act further  
4 states that the Reserve is a completed work of  
5 civic art, the siting of new commemorative -- and  
6 where the siting of new commemorative works is  
7 prohibited.

8 The three sites that were named in the  
9 Act were Constitution Gardens, prime candidate  
10 site number 10, so it's sort of between the lake  
11 and the Vietnam Veteran's memorial. The JFK  
12 Hockey Fields, prime candidate site 18, so that's  
13 south of the Lincoln Reflecting Pool. And then  
14 West Potomac Park, candidate 70 in the Museums  
15 and Memorials Master Plan.

16 Now the Museums and Memorials Master  
17 Plan included sites within the Reserve when it  
18 was first done, and of course, the Reserve was  
19 established that took those sites essentially off  
20 the table for new memorials.

21 Now we do all have the booklet that  
22 was submitted by the Global War on Terrorism

1 Foundation with some analysis of those sites. So  
2 I appreciate receiving that in advance. So at  
3 this point I think we'll move into discussion.

4 I'll say a few words to start off.  
5 Just at the risk of repeating myself too much,  
6 the process that was established in the  
7 Commemorative Works Act essentially recognizes a  
8 couple of important points.

9 One is that the area of the Reserve,  
10 the Congress has decided should not be the  
11 location for any new memorials. It is true there  
12 have been a couple of exceptions to -- or a few  
13 exceptions to that, and some were cited in  
14 testimony.

15 The more significant ones that were  
16 cited as exceptions, the Martin Luther King  
17 Memorial and the National Museum of African  
18 American History and culture, those sites were  
19 actually established before the Reserve was  
20 officially established, and those were sites that  
21 were grandfathered in under the Commemorative  
22 Works Act modifications in 2003.

1           The other changes, the other actions  
2       within the Reserve are modifications or small  
3       additions to existing memorials, none of them are  
4       brand new memorials.

5           And I do believe that the Congress in  
6       taking this action and establishing the Reserve  
7       essentially was looking for this Commission to be  
8       very thoughtful and careful, and to watch out for  
9       the direction they have provided. And I think in  
10      the circumstance, however important and  
11      meaningful and important to the history of the  
12      country a given memorial would be, location  
13      within the Reserve is something -- they did not  
14      elect to make it for certain types of memorials  
15      or those meeting certain criteria, they basically  
16      said nothing more should be done there.

17          And I believe that the Congress relies  
18      upon this Commission to remind the committees who  
19      have decision making authority over this of what  
20      was stated by the Congress in 2003, which is that  
21      no new memorials should be located within the  
22      Reserve.

1 I also think that this memorial raises  
2 questions about what is so special about this  
3 commemoration, and I think we heard some reasons  
4 why it is different in some ways than other  
5 commemorative works.

6 And certainly that is one of the  
7 reasons why when considering this legislation,  
8 the Commission was open to its consideration for  
9 authorization because it is an ongoing effort and  
10 there's no indication that it will end anytime  
11 soon and that was not a good reason to not allow  
12 it. Simply not having lasted the ten years  
13 that's required by the Act before it was  
14 authorized.

15 So I think that we understood that  
16 this was a bit different in that way. However,  
17 it does raise the question of is this  
18 commemorative work really substantially different  
19 from others that have not gone this route. Have  
20 not located within the Reserve.

21 And I think specifically the one that  
22 we're in the process of developing right now, the

1 Desert Storm and Shield Memorial is located just  
2 outside the Reserve. It's very close to the  
3 Vietnam Veteran's Memorial. It's in an area  
4 where there is potential I think for future  
5 memorials.

6 And I think that it's hard for us to  
7 -- or at least for me to distinguish between that  
8 commemorative work and this when it comes to its  
9 role, its prominence whether this proposal is  
10 more appropriate in that circumstance. So I  
11 think that, you know, if we hew closely to the  
12 Commemorative Works Act, it would be -- I don't  
13 believe that the commission should support the  
14 location of anything within the Reserve.

15 I will say that this is also pretty  
16 much the advice that I gave Mr. Rodriguez. I did  
17 also say that the Congress can -- what the  
18 Congress decides, the Congress can change its  
19 mind about. So certainly that is possible. If  
20 the Congress were to take a vote to approve this,  
21 then we would move forward with it. But I think  
22 the Congress also is expecting us to speak to

1       them about what the Congress has previously  
2       decided when it comes to siting of memorials. So  
3       that's my longwinded introduction. Would anyone  
4       else like to speak on this?

5               COMMISSIONER FOUNTAIN: I can start  
6       off with the caveat that I may be a little bit  
7       lengthy as I have a number of perspectives on  
8       this. But I represent the American Battle  
9       Monuments commission whose very mission is the  
10      commemoration of the achievements and the  
11      sacrifices of our nation's armed forces so we  
12      have a close interest in this proposal.

13             And our oversees monuments commemorate  
14      this nation's conflicts as far back as the  
15      Mexican American War all through the Spanish  
16      American War, the World Wars and Korea. We're  
17      currently planning a Cold War Memorial, studying  
18      the feasibly of a Vietnam War Memorial.

19             In Washington, we designed and built  
20      the American Expeditionary Forces Memorial, the  
21      World War II Memorial, the Korean War Veteran's  
22      Memorial, the latter two of which are located

1 within the Reserve. So we have a long and  
2 comprehensive perspective on the nation's program  
3 of war memorials. And I hate the layout of this  
4 room for this meeting because I'm talking to the  
5 applicants more than you, but be that as it may.

6 We also know that memorials stand for  
7 a long time. That they're not simply built in  
8 the moment, but they last for a hundred or more  
9 years, and should be understood in that  
10 perspective. This Commission also has to take a  
11 long perspective on memorials.

12 As some of my fellow commissioners  
13 know, I'm in the unique position of having been a  
14 memorial applicant in Washington having been a  
15 sponsor of the World War I Memorial in addition  
16 to now serving on this Commission. So I have  
17 stood at that podium and made many of the  
18 arguments that were made today.

19 But as the agenda before us shows  
20 today this Commission has to think not in terms  
21 of individual proposals but in terms of the whole  
22 program and array of memorials in the nation's

1 capital. And so has to look from a broader  
2 perspective and a longer time horizon.

3 So with those thoughts in mind, the  
4 Reserve Clause of the Commemorative Works Act  
5 represents a considered judgment by Congress that  
6 the Reserve is a designed landscape as  
7 substantially complete. Moreover, the Reserve  
8 serves a variety of purposes and represents a  
9 variety of values and ideals beyond commemoration  
10 of our service men and women. And that the  
11 addition of new war memorials impedes on those  
12 objectives.

13 Congress did not contemplate a process  
14 for exemptions to the Commemorative Works Act,  
15 but obviously, Congress always retains the  
16 inherent ability to create an exemption. And so  
17 the question for this Commission is to make a  
18 recommendation to Congress as to whether this  
19 proposal warrants an exemption.

20 I'm a lawyer, so I think in terms of  
21 precedence, and the World War I Memorial creates  
22 a very direct precedent. For five years

1 advocates for a national World War Memorial  
2 advocated for a spot within the Reserve, first as  
3 not as a new memorial, but as an addition to the  
4 existing District of Columbia war memorial. And  
5 then later for a standalone site at Constitution  
6 Gardens which was one of the sites offered in the  
7 proposal before us.

8           Legislation was introduced, went  
9 through hearings, was taken up by Congress and  
10 ultimately not passed in large part because of  
11 the hurdle of the Commemorative Works Act.

12           After Congress created the World War  
13 I Centennial Commission, that commission of  
14 course went and pursued a national memorial at  
15 Pershing Park on Pennsylvania Avenue off the  
16 Reserve, and that's being built now.

17           The other context I want to give my  
18 observations, and I'll say I had lot of thoughts  
19 on this that have been shaped to some extent by  
20 what's been said today. But, you know, on behalf  
21 of my agency and my own personal behalf, you  
22 know, I speak from a position of the greatest

1 admiration and gratitude for the service and  
2 sacrifices of not just our war on terror veterans  
3 but their families.

4 I have the utmost reverence and sorrow  
5 for those lost and wounded. And as the son of a  
6 Navy officer who repeatedly deployed for months  
7 at a time to sea and who was transferred off one  
8 of his ships just a few weeks before it went out  
9 on deployment from which it never returned, I  
10 support whole heartedly the establishment of this  
11 memorial in the nation's capital.

12 At the same time I have to note that  
13 World War I was the most consequential event of  
14 the 20th century that altered the course of  
15 history of this nation and of the world. It  
16 transformed every part of American society. It  
17 led directly or indirectly into the other three  
18 wars that are commemorated around the Lincoln  
19 Reflecting Pool.

20 That the 116,000 Americans who died in  
21 World War I are more than the numbers we lost in  
22 Korea and Vietnam combined, two memorials that

1 located within the Reserve. And all of that  
2 would dispose me to a recommendation to Congress  
3 that if World War I did not merit an exception to  
4 the Reserve Clause, then it's difficult to argue  
5 that the War on Terror would merit an exemption.

6 And where my thinking on that has been  
7 altered a bit today is -- because you're quite  
8 right, it's not simply counting numbers, and it's  
9 not completely about saying 116,000 is greater  
10 than 7,000, and to analyze the issue that way,  
11 because what did strike me in listening today is  
12 that the scale of the service of the armed forces  
13 over the 20 years certainly is comparable to that  
14 of wars that are commemorated in the reserve.

15 And I think while I will, Chairman  
16 May, put the War on the Terror in the context of  
17 Desert Storm in a few minutes, they are different  
18 in that the War on Terror has been an era-  
19 defining conflict in a way that Desert Storm was  
20 not. And in a way that the wars of the 20  
21 century were. And those factors, you know, lead  
22 me to think about how strongly I would argue for

1 or against an exemption to the Reserve Clause for  
2 a War on Terror memorial.

3 But that being said, I would say that  
4 the three sites that have been offered are not  
5 the sites I would argue for in terms of an  
6 exemption to the Reserve Clause, and that comes  
7 from a different set of perspectives.

8 My agency, this Commission have to  
9 look at war memorials not in isolation but as  
10 part of a group of war memorials in the nation's  
11 capital. And sadly, we have to plan for future  
12 war memorials because this is probably not our  
13 last overseas conflict.

14 The Reflecting Pool was not designed  
15 to be the center of a war memorial park, but over  
16 time it became one. And the national memorials  
17 to World War II, Korea, and Vietnam in  
18 conjunction with the District of Columbia World  
19 War I memorial have become a quartet of memorials  
20 to the great wars of the 20th Century, of the  
21 American century located within a defined  
22 precinct now around the Lincoln Reflecting Pool.

1                   The two World Wars bookended the first  
2   45 years of the 20th Century which was dominated  
3   by the struggle against Germany for preeminence  
4   in the European continent, and then of course,  
5   the Japanese conflict in World War II.

6                   Korea and Vietnam were the hot wars in  
7   the struggle against communism. Communism itself  
8   flowed directly as an offshoot of World War I and  
9   the fall of the Russian empire.

10                  The geopolitical implications and  
11   consequences of those four wars defined the 20th  
12   Century, and it makes sense to have a precinct  
13   dedicated to those wars in that era in our  
14   history. I submit that beginning with Desert  
15   Storm and continuing into the 21st Century we  
16   have embarked on a new narrative in our nation's  
17   history of warfare.

18                  The conflicts by and large have taken  
19   place within the same region of the world. Our  
20   enemies have been different, the nature of  
21   warfare has been different, the scale of the wars  
22   has on some measures been different. And I think

1       that will continue to be the case throughout the  
2       coming decades.

3               So as I look at war memorials across  
4       Washington, D.C. I think we should look at the  
5       area around the Reflecting Pool as a book that  
6       should be closed, and that that becomes the  
7       narrative of America's wars in the 20th century.  
8       And we should think about how we open a new book  
9       on memorials for the 21st Century.

10              Now it happens that the Desert Storm  
11       war has already been sited at an area that, and  
12       here is one of the anomalies, is most people  
13       don't say our memorial should be on the Reserve.  
14       They say our memorial should be on the Mall.

15              And the ironic thing about the  
16       Commemorative Works Act is that the Reserve is  
17       not the Mall, or at least not the Mall as most  
18       people understand it. And that's an issue for  
19       another day, another forum. But the Desert Storm  
20       Memorial is going on a site that a lot of people  
21       would consider part of the Mall.

22              Between that site and the Vietnam

1 Veteran's Memorial is a currently empty site that  
2 was at one point side for the Vietnam Visitor's  
3 Center. I look at those two sites which now have  
4 the Desert Storm Memorial planned for them, and I  
5 think about can we take those sites and make  
6 those the precinct of memorials for the wars of  
7 the 21st Century?

8 I think that's strengthened by the  
9 fact that in terms of numbers of casualties, at  
10 least, you know, of the 7,000 that we have lost  
11 in the War on Terror to date, I think a little  
12 over 4,000 were lost in Iraq. And I see a value  
13 to linking, although those are two very different  
14 wars fought for two very different purposes, I  
15 see a value to linking those wars by geographic  
16 proximity on the Mall.

17 And so as you pursue this proposal, I  
18 would think about that. I would recognize that  
19 there are reasons for opposing the three sites  
20 that you have put forward that do not detract at  
21 all from the desire to properly value and  
22 commemorate the service of the War on Terror

1 generation not just today but a hundred years  
2 from now.

3 But recognizing that that's in the  
4 context of 250 years and counting of American  
5 history. It's in the context of the wars that we  
6 are likely to continue fighting in the 21st  
7 Century. And so for those reasons I would steer  
8 you towards that area of the Mall and could be  
9 readily persuaded, I think, to argue to Congress  
10 that an exemption to the Reserve Clause is  
11 warranted for that purpose.

12 I'm not prepared to advocate for the  
13 three sites put forward in the bill, but is,  
14 again, I take a long view of these things and  
15 proposals before Congress go through many  
16 changes. So I apologize for the length of my  
17 remarks, but as again, I had a variety of  
18 perspectives on this.

19 CHAIR MAY: We appreciate the  
20 comments. Others? Mr. Luebke?

21 COMMISSIONER LUEBKE: You know, I'm  
22 trying to -- if you could remind us. The advice

1 from the review of this Commission on the subject  
2 of authorization, some -- what was it, a two  
3 years ago perhaps?

4 I mean this question of the War on  
5 Terror as being -- it raises so many interesting  
6 questions because it's a little bit of a new  
7 category. It's not a conflict that can easily be  
8 defined by duration. In fact, I believe it's  
9 understood to be opened-ended. Is that correct?  
10 It is opened-ended?

11 CHAIR MAY: I mean it's not ended.

12 MR. RODRIGUEZ: It has not ended.

13 CHAIR MAY: Has not ended.

14 COMMISSIONER LUEBKE: And so  
15 temporally. It's a little confusing because does  
16 the Commemorative Works Act actually say it  
17 should have been over by ten years?

18 CHAIR MAY: Ten years, yes.

19 COMMISSIONER LUEBKE: And how did we  
20 respond to that because clearly the conflict --

21 CHAIR MAY: So I mean I think we noted  
22 that it was inconsistent with the ten-year rule,

1 but recognized that the Commission understood  
2 this to be a different kind of conflict.

3 COMMISSIONER LUEBKE: Right.

4 CHAIR MAY: And since there was no end  
5 in sight --

6 COMMISSIONER LUEBKE: Never ending,  
7 yes.

8 CHAIR MAY: -- it was an exceptional  
9 case. Okay, I forget.

10 COMMISSIONER LUEBKE: Well, I find --  
11 you know, in this long historical view I find it  
12 to be a quite fascinating topic and maybe it  
13 speaks of a different time in our technology.  
14 And certainly, we started see that at the time of  
15 Desert Storm with the, you know, the beginning of  
16 the application of a lot of IT in warfare that  
17 hadn't been understood maybe in previous  
18 conflicts, and now this seems to be an underlying  
19 issue probably for the Global War on Terrorism is  
20 how much of it has to do with that digital world  
21 that didn't exist.

22 We're struggling here I think with

1 typologies of brick and mortar and conflict on  
2 the ground and in the air that make an older  
3 model of warfare comprehensible in a memorial  
4 where this is a little bit of new thing. I think  
5 that's one of the reasons why I believe we're  
6 struggling with this because it doesn't fit our  
7 normal categories.

8 And in fact, you could argue, and I'm  
9 not sure, so I don't want to go out on a limb  
10 here, it seems like if you look at the casualties  
11 of this ongoing Global War on terrorism, it seems  
12 to encompass many of these other conflicts which  
13 will inevitably get their own memorial.

14 For example, Afghanistan will  
15 certainly come forward. We have Desert Shield.  
16 Desert Storm we'll certainly eventually have  
17 something with Iraq. They're all connected. To  
18 what extent, I don't want to use the word  
19 redundant, but there's a certain overlap perhaps  
20 of commemorative purpose.

21 So it's a head scratcher because I  
22 think the idea of it is terribly important for

1 our understanding of our national narrative and  
2 our history, and the recognition of the  
3 sacrifice. So my problem with the Reserve  
4 question is I agree with these other comments  
5 about I'm not convinced that there really is a  
6 sort of 20th Century story being told in that  
7 West Potomac Park area. I agree with you that  
8 it's hard to -- with Mr. Fountain's comments.

9 I think that this is so conceptually  
10 important, but I don't know how to handle it.  
11 And it feels like it's new and it needs to set  
12 the tone for something else. And it needs to  
13 probably be associated with these other generally  
14 Southwest Asian conflicts that we're seeing in  
15 these decades now since the 1990s and onward.

16 So I'm feeling like I'm not convinced  
17 by the site selections. I wish that perhaps  
18 there was a whole new way that we could think  
19 about -- you know, all the war memorials that we  
20 have in the West Potomac Park are all, you know,  
21 post -- really started -- and the Vietnam  
22 Veteran's Memorial started in the late 70s, so

1       it's fairly recent. It would be wonderful if we  
2       had time to think about this, that there was a  
3       way to set a new precedent for this cluster of  
4       conflicts which are so connected.

5               So, you know, I tend to agree that I  
6       would prefer to see it go to that northwestern  
7       area where the Desert Shield/Desert Storm is  
8       looking, and maybe there is a corner there that  
9       is worth changing. But I think that it's  
10      conceptually such -- it's a little bit like the  
11      Cold War in that it's not easily defined. But  
12      it's tremendously salient in understanding our  
13      history.

14              So that means I guess I'm on the same  
15      position as Mr. Fountain where I think I'm with  
16      the idea of pursuing the memorial, but I can't  
17      support, at this time, about these locations  
18      within the Reserve.

19              COMMISSIONER WRIGHT: I think it's  
20      also -- you touched on the same questions that I  
21      had because at some point, unfortunately, we have  
22      to plan for growth, right? And it's not just a

1 matter of typology. It's because there is  
2 chronology and also geography.

3 So there will invariably be an impulse  
4 to have a memorial to the wars in Afghanistan and  
5 every other location. I mean who knows where the  
6 Global War on Terror will heat up next, and I can  
7 imagine a whole -- unfortunately a collection of  
8 these memorials. And at that time I think we  
9 would regret not having thought through and  
10 planned for growth thematically, right, so that  
11 they are within some distance of one another.

12 When a family flies in from all parts  
13 and has a limited time to do the -- to see all  
14 the sites that say one family could conceivably  
15 have an association with. So that's also a long-  
16 winded way of saying I think I also agree with  
17 Mr. Fountain.

18 And I'm not saying that they all have  
19 to be neatly be clustered together like a  
20 sculpture garden. I'm simply saying that -- and  
21 we've done this before when we have looked at  
22 clusters of other thematically-related memorials

1 thinking about how they're going to be visited  
2 and by whom. I'm not sure -- the only thing that  
3 I'm not sure I'm aligned with you completely is  
4 this the site, the former site of the Vietnam  
5 Visitors Centers. That's what you're talking  
6 about, correct?

7 CHAIR MAY: Yeah.

8 COMMISSIONER WRIGHT: I'm not sure  
9 that that's planning for enough growth up in that  
10 corner because once you get past where Desert  
11 Storm is going, once you get west of that, then  
12 you start getting embroiled in all the spaghetti  
13 highway stuff. And who wants to contemplate  
14 anything but getting out of one of those spots.

15 So I don't see those as appropriate  
16 memorial -- as having sufficient growth, which I  
17 can't say I have the answer for this, but I think  
18 that the -- I think I would probably vote to keep  
19 looking with the idea, unfortunately, of planning  
20 for neighboring memorials.

21 CHAIR MAY: Okay, other comments?

22 COMMISSIONER SHERMAN: Mr. Chairman,

1 I would just first acknowledge all the previous  
2 comments. I think you touched on several themes  
3 that I'd like to remind the Commission that our  
4 agency is looking at as part of our ongoing work  
5 on the update to the two planned around  
6 commemoration, new ways of thinking about  
7 memorialization, themes, as well as a sort of  
8 whole nature of warfare has changed and how do we  
9 commemorate that.

10 So my question is a little more  
11 fundamental I guess in are we being asked to look  
12 at both the selection for the Reserve as well as  
13 a site? It seems like we're a bit premature in  
14 terms of having three sites on the table and we  
15 have to make a decision about --

16 CHAIR MAY: I --

17 COMMISSIONER WRIGHT: It's all three  
18 areas.

19 CHAIR MAY: You know, frankly, I think  
20 what's before us is a threshold question about  
21 placement within the reserve. If, you know,  
22 we've heard comments that basically saying that

1 if there is to be an exception, that none of the  
2 three are really sensible, but we're not doing a  
3 full-scale evaluation of sites at this moment.

4 If the Congress were to prepare or  
5 were to pass legislation authorizing a location  
6 within the reserve, it's conceivable that they  
7 could open the door for other sites and maybe we  
8 wouldn't be faced with that. But that's not what  
9 we have before us right now. I think it's that  
10 threshold question. Other comments?

11 COMMISSIONER TURNBULL: Mr. Chair, I  
12 would concur with most of the comments that we  
13 have heard this afternoon. I think, you know,  
14 what's been stated before is that we've been so  
15 used to regional pigeon holes for wars. We can  
16 put them into neatly defined categories or  
17 locations geographically. And the problem we're  
18 going to have now with this Global War on  
19 Terrorism is that they could become regional  
20 locations such as we said Afghanistan.

21 And I'm repeating what's been said  
22 before you got a conundrum in that you've now

1       gone from a global thought process to actually  
2       regional concerns. And the global thing could  
3       grow in any number of directions. We're having  
4       attacks on our bases all over the world. So in  
5       that sense, yes, it's -- we don't even know  
6       really who our enemies are at any given time.

7               But getting back to the -- I think our  
8       problem right now or what is that we have -- I  
9       think I'm hearing a consensus that we feel that  
10      the sites that were selected really don't pay  
11      homage or pay respect to what this conflict  
12      really is in that there needs to be some more  
13      analysis or review of the concept of what we're  
14      trying to achieve here and where it could go  
15      considering what may happen as we go down the  
16      road in future years.

17             What that is, -- again, whether it's  
18      the Vietnam Visitor's site, I don't know what's  
19      going to happen with that or what's going to  
20      become of that site.

21             CHAIR MAY: Yeah, right now nothing  
22      will happen with it because it's within the

1 Reserve.

2 COMMISSIONER TURNBULL: It's in the  
3 Reserve. So the Desert Storm site, there's  
4 limited room down there to expand. So we're  
5 running out of room again. But I think we will  
6 need to relook at this and try to figure out  
7 where we can put this memorial in a site that --  
8 or in a context that may change as years go by.  
9 I don't have an answer for that.

10 I think it's a big problem we're going  
11 to face as we go down the road. But I would  
12 agree with the consensus that I'm hearing that we  
13 should not recommend to Congress that the sites  
14 that were selected should be sites for this  
15 specific memorial.

16 COMMISSIONER MCMAHON: Thank you, Mr.  
17 Chair. I'm sensing two questions, though, I just  
18 want to be clear at least from my perspective,  
19 and one of which is there a specific site that's  
20 been packaged that we think is appropriate to  
21 recognize the Global War on Terrorism and those  
22 who gave the ultimate sacrifice and others who

1 have been involved either serving or as families  
2 of those who served or supporting those who  
3 served. And I think I can support that consensus  
4 that that needs some more thought.

5 And I think the other question, which  
6 is, you know, and I think we do have a little  
7 time constraint not today, but generally in the  
8 process is do we believe that the Global War on  
9 Terrorism is worthy of memorialization within the  
10 Reserve area. And I think I can support that  
11 recommendation.

12 CHAIR MAY: I think that's where we  
13 would differ, but I appreciate that. So any  
14 other comments?

15 COMMISSIONER MALONEY: I think pretty  
16 much everything has been said. The only thing  
17 that I would add is that I'm a little bit more  
18 sanguine perhaps than Ms. Wright that the area of  
19 the spaghetti can't be rethought.

20 I mean this has been on the City's  
21 agenda for years to replan that area. And it's a  
22 large area. If you go walk around it and you'll

1 realize how big it is. And I think that that  
2 needs to be accelerated. And NCPC I know is  
3 working on this right now.

4 But we are clearly running out of room  
5 on the Mall, and extending the sense that, as  
6 someone said earlier, the quality of site you can  
7 get does extend to places that are outside of the  
8 Reserve.

9 And that's the most important thing,  
10 to get a site that is appropriate and meaningful  
11 or suitable to the very significant meaning of  
12 this memorial. And I have to associate myself  
13 with Mr. Fountain, I don't personally see the  
14 sites one, two and three as being the right place  
15 for this.

16 CHAIR MAY: So a little difficult to  
17 formulate all of this into a single clear motion.  
18 But I would like to try to make a recommendation  
19 of the things that we would highlight in a  
20 response to the memorial sponsors and to the  
21 committees in Congress who will have to review  
22 this, or who are considering it.

1 I think that we do have to, first and  
2 foremost, remind the Congress that what they're  
3 proposing is inconsistent with the Reserve and  
4 why the Reserve was established. I think that we  
5 also can acknowledge some of the reasons why the  
6 Global War on Terror is unusual, and largely  
7 going to Mr. Fountain's comments having to do  
8 with the scale of involvement of the United  
9 States forces and so many people in support. And  
10 that it may require some different consideration  
11 than the typical memorial.

12 I also think that it is important to  
13 point out to the Congress that the Global War on  
14 Terror is inclusive of two other specific  
15 conflicts that we would expect would result in  
16 memorial proposals at some point in the future.  
17 And with that in combination with the many other  
18 memorials that are proposed, I mean there are  
19 four on the agenda today, they're all good  
20 reasons to give careful thought to planning  
21 carefully and to not overload the Reserve or any  
22 other portions of the Mall or the area

1 surrounding the Mall.

2 And then finally I think that we can  
3 note that sites one, two and three -- should  
4 Congress go ahead, sites one, two and three are  
5 probably -- or would say would not be the best  
6 from the Commission's perspective, and that  
7 should the Congress determine that an exception  
8 to the Reserve be necessary, that the Congress  
9 would allow further examination of additional  
10 sites that may be more appropriate. Does that  
11 make sense?

12 Okay. So we have a recording of this.  
13 I'm not going to try to formulate this into a  
14 very specific motion. But if we agree that those  
15 are the points that should be made, I'd like to  
16 entertain a motion that essentially be the  
17 message that we communicate. So can I get a  
18 motion?

19 COMMISSIONER TURNBULL: I would make  
20 a motion.

21 CHAIR MAY: Mr. Turnbull's made the  
22 motion. Is there a second?

1 COMMISSIONER SHERMAN: Second.

2 CHAIR MAY: Mr. Sherman seconds. All  
3 those in favor, please signify by saying aye.

4 (Chorus of ayes)

5 CHAIR MAY: Okay. That concludes our  
6 discussion of the Global War on Terror Memorial  
7 Location Bill 5046. Thank you very much. Thank  
8 you very much for all of those of you who came  
9 today and who submitted testimony. We look  
10 forward to working with you in the future.

11 All right. So next on the agenda is  
12 the Commission will hear testimony regarding H.R.  
13 5173, a bill to authorize the National Medal of  
14 Honor Museum Foundation to establish a  
15 commemorative work in the District of Columbia or  
16 its environs.

17 H.R. 5173 was introduced by  
18 Congressman Mark Veasey on November 19th, 2019.  
19 The bill was referred to the House National  
20 Resources Committee Subcommittee on National  
21 Parks, Forests and Public Lands.

22 We have already heard from Congressman

1       Veasey who testified on behalf of the bill. And  
2       next we will hear from Joe Daniels, the president  
3       and CEO of the National Medal Of Honor Museum  
4       Foundation.

5               Mr. Daniels will share his time with  
6       Major General Pat Brady and Lieutenant Colonel  
7       William Swensen. Mr. Daniels, if you would  
8       please give us your testimony and then you can  
9       introduce your colleagues. Thank you.

10              MR. DANIELS: Thank you very much. I  
11       actually wanted to start off picking up on the  
12       previous discussion. I was formally the  
13       president and CEO of the National September 11th  
14       Memorial and Museum in New York city, and I know  
15       on behalf of the 2,977 innocent people that were  
16       murdered in New York, and at the Pentagon, and in  
17       Shanksville, Pennsylvania, the most special  
18       visits that we had to the memorial and the  
19       museum, we got two popes to come, queens and  
20       presidents, and all of that.

21              But the most meaningful visits to the  
22       9/11 family members were when the young men and

1 women who had deployed overseas to fight for our  
2 country because of what happened on that day came  
3 to visit New York and see what this country had  
4 done in building the memorial to those that were  
5 murdered. So I just wanted to take this  
6 opportunity and thank you and the families for  
7 what your loved ones and what you guys have done  
8 individually.

9 And, of course, one of my board  
10 members, Lieutenant Colonel Will Swensen, Medal  
11 of Honor recipient, is also here and was a part  
12 of that. But that's not why I'm here. To the  
13 Medal Of Honor recipients who are here both Will  
14 and General Pat Brady Medal Of Honor recipient,  
15 both of whom serve on my board, I wanted to thank  
16 them for entrusting me and the National Medal of  
17 Honor Museum foundation on which they serve with  
18 this amazingly significant responsibility to  
19 permanently commemorate and enshrine the stories  
20 and memories of Medal of Honor recipients in the  
21 hearts of the American public whom you have  
22 bravely and selflessly served and defended.

1                   There is just simply no higher honor  
2 bestowed on the United States member of the armed  
3 forces for valor and combat than the Medal of  
4 Honor. There is therefore no higher privilege  
5 for those of us on the foundation team than to be  
6 part of recognizing and properly honoring the  
7 sacrifices of those who have received the only  
8 military medal given in the name of Congress, and  
9 therefore, directly in the name of the American  
10 people.

11                   President Lincoln signed legislation  
12 creating the Medal of Honor in 1861 and the first  
13 medal was awarded on March 25th, 1863. In 1990,  
14 President George H.W. Bush signed legislation  
15 from Congress to designating March 25th National  
16 Medal of Honor day. Not enough people know that  
17 March 25th is National Medal of Honor day, and if  
18 we do our job right years from now that day will  
19 join in the American consciousness with some of  
20 the most important days out of the year.

21                   Since 1863, just over 3,500  
22 individuals have received the Medal of Honor.

1 They have served in every American war and  
2 conflict since and including the Civil War, and  
3 every single branch of the United States military  
4 is represented.

5 Recipients of the Medal of Honor are  
6 from every state in our union and are selected  
7 without concern for race, gender, religious or  
8 political affiliation or any other such  
9 identifier. The quality all these individuals do  
10 have in common is that in the toughest situations  
11 imaginable, and against all odds, they  
12 distinguish themselves with acts of valor,  
13 without concern for their own safety, their own  
14 person or well-being.

15 The Medal of Honor represents not only  
16 these individual acts of selfless valor, but also  
17 six core values which go directly to the heart of  
18 what it means to be an American and to put others  
19 above self. Courage, sacrifice, patriotism,  
20 citizenship, integrity, and commitment are  
21 American ideals embodied in the Medal of Honor  
22 and they are the values that unify and inspire us

1 all.

2 The purpose of the Medal of Honor  
3 Monument authorized by the legislation that's  
4 being considered today is not only to recognize  
5 the bravery of generations of highly  
6 distinguished heroes who gave so much, many  
7 giving their own lives, but to inspire future  
8 generations of Americans to live lives bigger  
9 than themselves.

10 Monuments and memorials are created to  
11 mark significant events or honor larger than life  
12 individuals from the past. But they also exist  
13 to inspire, to promote reflection, and to  
14 motivate us to become better versions of  
15 ourselves.

16 I can say without question that the  
17 memorial that we built in New York City and the  
18 museum that went along with that has transformed  
19 millions of people's lives. Tens of millions of  
20 kids have gone through that museum and the first  
21 time they've gone back to their towns and saw a  
22 firefighter or a cop after visiting the World

1 Trade Center, they had a new appreciation of what  
2 it was to be a first responder.

3 I also just want to say to the  
4 representative from Section 106, which I don't  
5 know how much recognition you get often, but you  
6 should.

7 MR. WILSON: We're everywhere, we're  
8 nowhere.

9 MR. DANIELS: Yes. But I can say that  
10 in the early days of creating the museum at the  
11 World Trade Center, Section 106 played an  
12 incredibly important role because the massive  
13 retaining wall that held back the Hudson River in  
14 the aftermath of the attacks as well as the box  
15 beam column remnants from the original towers  
16 were both Section 106 assets, and it was part of  
17 a very long engaged and important discussion that  
18 has allowed meaningful visual access to the tens  
19 of millions of people who have come to see the  
20 World Trade Center. And really the museum was  
21 built around that concept of visual access.

22 So when I heard Section 106, I got a

1 little -- anyway, it was super -- it ended up  
2 very important and it made a huge difference  
3 about the development of Ground Zero.

4 CHAIR MAY: We all get emotional over  
5 106.

6 MR. DANIELS: When you look around  
7 Washington, D.C., there is no doubt we have  
8 memorialized the greatest giants of the republic,  
9 and I believe each of them would agree the men  
10 and women who have distinguished themselves and  
11 received the Medal of Honor deserve a seat among  
12 them.

13 In fact, I believe they would  
14 uniformly argue the distinguished soldier is more  
15 deserving than themselves. President Lincoln who  
16 now sits perched and watching out over our  
17 National Mall of course famously said, "A nation  
18 that does not honor its heroes will not long  
19 endure."

20 Though he isn't here to speak to the  
21 need for this Medal of Honor monument today, I  
22 believe Lincoln made his position on the matter

1 very clear. On March 18th, 1864 he declared,  
2 "For it has been said, all that a man has will he  
3 give for his life. And while all contribute of  
4 their substance, the soldier puts his life at  
5 stake and often yields up in his country's cause  
6 the highest merit that is due to the soldier."

7 His sentiments have been echoed by  
8 every president of both parties as they have  
9 followed in his footsteps honoring those willing  
10 to wear the uniform and defend our country. In  
11 fact, all four living presidents of the United  
12 States are honorary directors of this amazing  
13 project.

14 And I believe that it speaks volumes  
15 about the national significance and the need for  
16 this monument that President Carter, President  
17 Clinton, President Bush and President Obama have  
18 come together to offer their full and unequivocal  
19 support.

20 Respect for our military, especially  
21 those who have distinguished themselves in  
22 service has always united Americans. To that

1 end, I believe this project is extremely timely  
2 as we face an era of deep and philosophical  
3 divides. We have a responsibility to inspire our  
4 fellow Americans to look beyond the circumstances  
5 of today, reflect on lives and acts of selfless  
6 heroism, and inspire to the greatness that they  
7 embody.

8 It's a privilege to be sitting here  
9 today with Medal of Honor recipient Major General  
10 Pat Brady. General Brady served in the United  
11 States Army in Vietnam. President Nixon  
12 presented him with the Medal of Honor in 1969  
13 after a second tour in Vietnam.

14 General Brady would never say this  
15 about himself, but I'll tell you, he is known,  
16 and I just told him this morning again at  
17 breakfast, he's known worldwide as one of the  
18 greatest helicopter pilots of all time. And he  
19 put those skills to fearless use to save  
20 countless number of lives.

21 I want to share a couple lines from  
22 his Medal of Honor citation with you today. For

1 a conspicuous gallantry and intrepidly in action  
2 at the risk of his life above and beyond the call  
3 of duty, Major General Brady distinguished  
4 himself while serving in the Republic of Vietnam  
5 commanding a UH-1H UE ambulance helicopter,  
6 volunteered to rescue wounded men from a site in  
7 enemy held territory which was reported to be  
8 heavily defended and blanketed by fog.

9           Although his aircraft had been badly  
10 damaged and his controls shot away partially  
11 during his initial entry into the area, he  
12 returned minutes later and rescued the remaining  
13 injured. Throughout that day Major General Brady  
14 utilized three helicopters to evacuate a total of  
15 51 seriously wounded men, many of whom would have  
16 perished without prompt medical treatment. Major  
17 General Brady's bravery was in the highest  
18 traditions of the military service and reflects  
19 great credit upon himself and the United States  
20 Army.

21           We are also joined today by Lieutenant  
22 Colonel Will Swensen. President Obama presented

1 Will the Medal of Honor in 2013. At Will's  
2 ceremony in the East Wing of the White House the  
3 president had this to say as part of his remarks  
4 to the assembled crowd.

5 "Moments like this, Americans like  
6 Will remind us what our country can be at its  
7 best. A nation of citizens who look out for one  
8 another not just when it's easy but when it's  
9 hard, especially when it's hard. Will, you're an  
10 example to everyone in this city, to our whole  
11 country of the professionalism and patriotism we  
12 should strive for. Whether we wear the uniform  
13 or not. Not just on particular occasions, but  
14 all the time."

15 These are just brief clips from the  
16 stories and ceremonies of two of the more than  
17 3,500 heroic Americans who have received the  
18 Medal of Honor. They are great Americans. They  
19 have risked everything, many making the ultimate  
20 sacrifice to defend and preserve our great nation  
21 and their fellow countrymen.

22 Their stories have been told in books,

1 in movies, in television dramas by local and  
2 national news outlets, Netflix, and by parents  
3 and grandparents passing down the memories of  
4 bravery from one generation to the next.

5 In fact, this spring one Medal of  
6 Honor recipient story will even been told in  
7 comic book hero form and made available  
8 nationwide for a new generation of Americans.

9 There is a reason Americans from every  
10 walk of life are drawn to these individuals in  
11 these stories. They are historically  
12 unparalleled, uplifting, and inspiring. There is  
13 a reason every medium of public communication  
14 seizes on the opportunity to be a part of telling  
15 these stories. They pique the national interest  
16 because of their deep significance and relatable  
17 relevance.

18 When the master plans were laid out  
19 for the District of Columbia years ago, this is  
20 exactly the type of nationally significant and  
21 unifying monument for which they so wisely set  
22 aside land to accommodate. When Congress passed

1 the Commemorative Works Act they further  
2 preserved property in the heart of our nation to  
3 honor these types of heroes who have woven so  
4 much greatness into the fabric of our nation, and  
5 whose stories speak directly to who we are as  
6 Americans.

7 To summarize, the American dream is  
8 the belief that anyone can accomplish anything.  
9 What better reminder of that exist than Medal of  
10 Honor recipients, ordinary Americans who set fear  
11 aside and put others first, and they accomplished  
12 absolutely astonishingly extraordinary things.

13 This project is a remarkable  
14 opportunity, too, with a single monument  
15 recognize every single branch of our military,  
16 every single battle since the Civil War, every  
17 state in the union, every generation since 1863,  
18 and individuals from every walk of life in our  
19 amazing country. No other monument proposed to  
20 date or which will be proposed in the future  
21 encompasses so much of America.

22 On behalf of my team with the support

1 of four past presidents of the United States,  
2 three former Defense and Service secretaries,  
3 dozens of retired military generals and leaders,  
4 members of Congress including Congressman Veasey  
5 who is so compassionate and kind to come down to  
6 address you today, some of the leading  
7 philanthropists in America, the living Medal of  
8 Honor recipients, and the families of those  
9 recipients who are no longer with us, I  
10 respectfully ask you to recommend this monument  
11 to Congress. Thank you.

12 CHAIR MAY: Thank you.

13 MR. BRADY: My name is Pat Brady.  
14 Thanks for those kind words, Bill. I love to  
15 hear what a fine fellow I am. I wish my wife  
16 could be here to hear what a fine fellow I am.  
17 More than that, I wish my wife's mother could be  
18 here to hear that.

19 Now I notice we got a guy from the  
20 ABMC over here. I'm a former member of the  
21 American Battle Monuments Committee under PX  
22 Kelly, a great man. We just lost him the other

1 day. And the thing that was remarkable about the  
2 time I joined the commission was the fact that  
3 they had not done it.

4 I mean why has it taken them so long  
5 to do something in honor? And I would argue with  
6 you about whether World War I or World War II is  
7 more significant, but why it took them so long to  
8 honor those great men from World War II so it was  
9 a great honor of my life to be on that commission  
10 and to be there when they finished it with  
11 Senator Dole coming in and talking to us just  
12 about every day to get off our ass and get it  
13 done.

14 But anyhow, that was a great thing,  
15 and the thing we're talking about here is it goes  
16 to the 19th, 20th and 21st Century, all of us.  
17 So you can take our memorial and put it right in  
18 the middle of the Reflecting Pool and draw them  
19 all together and be done with it.

20 But my job here today is to emphasize  
21 to you that it's not about us. It's about the  
22 values, not the valor. And so very quickly I'm

1 reminded of what Henry VIII said to his fourth  
2 wife, "I won't keep you long." So I'm going to  
3 kind of take you through how we've evolved as a  
4 society, the Medal of Honor Society.

5 When I joined, believe it or not,  
6 there were members from the Indian Wars, from the  
7 Boxer Rebellion, and World War I guys, some of  
8 the World War II guys. And I hate to say this,  
9 but those guys were so much tougher than we are,  
10 it's not even close.

11 So we went through the years and every  
12 year we had to have a meeting, a convention. So  
13 we would go to those conventions and party. And  
14 if you party with guys like Commando Kelly, and  
15 Pappy Boyington, Chief Childress, Scooter Burke,  
16 I mean these guys were world class partiers. So  
17 we left the convention with nothing more than a  
18 hangover.

19 And one year we went to Philadelphia,  
20 Mayor Rendell said, "Okay, you guys, I want you  
21 to go with me on a March through the ghettos here  
22 at midnight." And so we lined up with him and we

1       went through the ghettos. And we looked around  
2       and it just kind of opened our eyes.

3               And the next day they said, "Let's go  
4       into a school in Philadelphia." So we went into  
5       a school in Philadelphia and we had to go through  
6       metal detectors. We thought what in the heck?  
7       So we started talking among ourselves.

8               Now the older guys, the great guys,  
9       they had done things in their communities and  
10      everything for ever and ever, and every recipient  
11      does that. But what could we do as a society  
12      that would leave behind something other than just  
13      a hangover. So we started our character  
14      development program.

15              The medal is a symbol. Symbol is from  
16      the Greek word meaning half token which when you  
17      join it with the other half represents something  
18      above and beyond itself. Like the American flag  
19      for example. The other half token of the  
20      American flag is the declaration, constitution.  
21      You burn the American flag, you burn the  
22      declaration and the constitution.

1           The other half token of this medal,  
2       courage, sacrifice, patriotism. So we took those  
3       three things, now we've added three to them, but  
4       they're all part of the original three. I don't  
5       know why they did that. But anyhow, we take  
6       those three things and we build POIs, lesson  
7       plans and videos. And we've been into hundreds  
8       and hundreds of schools, thousands and thousands  
9       of kids and many, many, many teachers as well.  
10      It's all free, it's all online.

11           And we need a memorial, we need a  
12      museum to carry -- we're going to be dead in  
13      about ten years. The average age of our group is  
14      like up -- not me, but up in the 80s for some of  
15      them. Really, I am there, too.

16           But anyhow, we do this in order to  
17      emphasize the fact that every young man, he  
18      doesn't have to go into combat. He can be a  
19      hero. That in the one way that's more important  
20      than other way we are all born equal.

21           The only way, and that's in matters of  
22      courage. You can have all the courage you want,

1       you can't use it up. It's the key to success in  
2       life. And we teach that to these kids.  
3       Sacrifice, the key to happiness in life. Love in  
4       action. I'm not going to give you the lecture.

5               But we found one of the most important  
6       things that seemed to be lacking was patriotism.  
7       And so we started to emphasize that with the  
8       teachers, and a lot of them thought it was kind  
9       of hokey. And so in order to teach the kids  
10      about patriotism I always told them the story  
11      about Webster Anderson.

12             Webster Anderson, I'm going to tell  
13      you a war story. You know, the difference  
14      between a war story and a fairy tale? Fairy tale  
15      begins once upon a time. A war story begins with  
16      this is no shit.

17             So Webster Anderson was a great black  
18      soldier, he was an artillery man, he was on a  
19      mountain top in Vietnam when he was attacked by  
20      the communists. The initial attack they pretty  
21      much took off both of his legs. Still he fought  
22      on. The next attack they threw a hand grenade

1       into his position. Webster caught the hand  
2       grenade and when he was throwing it clear of his  
3       position it pretty much took off his arm.

4               I flew in that night and picked up  
5       what was left of Webster and his wounded men and  
6       took them to the hospital. Amazingly they were  
7       able to save his life, but he lost both legs and  
8       one arm. Also earned the Medal of Honor.

9               So of course, he and I became very  
10       close friends. He thought I saved his life. The  
11       physicians saved his life. And after that  
12       Webster and I would go out and talk to the  
13       children across America, and we're in a classroom  
14       one time in Oklahoma. And he was more plastic  
15       really than he was flesh, one arm was a cane and  
16       we kind of prop him up and talk to the kids.

17              And one young man raised his hand and  
18       says, "Mr. Anderson, knowing what you know now  
19       that it would cost you two legs and one arm,  
20       would you do it again?" And Webster raised his  
21       one good arm and he says, "Kid, I've only got one  
22       arm left but my country can have it any time it

1       wants." And I'm sure that those young people  
2       looking at that great black soldier were forever  
3       impressed with the importance of patriotism and  
4       what it means to our country.

5               And so that's what we're about, not  
6       the valor. We've been honored to death, but the  
7       values that go with the medal, and so that we can  
8       take these into the schools across America. And  
9       I remember Senator Dole used to come into the  
10      commission and he would sit down, and he would  
11      say, "You guys know how many World War II  
12      veterans died today?" And geez whiz, it was an  
13      amazing number. Like 1,600 or something every  
14      day. And he says, "Now, will you please get this  
15      thing done?"

16             So there's only 71 of us left and so  
17      I hope you could get this thing done before we're  
18      all gone. So God bless you, hope you can help  
19      us.

20             MR. SWENSEN: Mr. Chairman, members of  
21      the Commission, thank you for having us today.  
22      My name is Will Swensen, a lieutenant colonel,

1 U.S. Army, Global War on Terror veteran and Medal  
2 of Honor recipient.

3 The Medal of Honor, it's a symbol.  
4 This symbol has my name on etched on the back.  
5 President Obama gave it to me. The citation  
6 speaks specifically at me. But this award was  
7 not done in a vacuum, and you could scratch my  
8 name off that citation and you could put anyone  
9 else's name that was on that battlefield on that  
10 citation and I'd stand behind that award.

11 What we do as Medal of Honor  
12 recipients is we wear this award on behalf of all  
13 those we have fought with. We wear this award on  
14 behalf of all those who serve. They may not be  
15 called upon to serve at this level. But they're  
16 called upon. Every single one of our service  
17 members has embodied in them the ability to reach  
18 this level.

19 Now we hope that this organization  
20 will sunset. Some of us might sunset sooner than  
21 others. But we hope that this nation no longer  
22 has the need for this award. That these awards

1 will be retired to museums, returned to families,  
2 put in shoe boxes for safe keeping.

3 But ultimately, we need something that  
4 is a symbol for this nation that will represent  
5 what this award is, what these values are, who we  
6 are as a country. The time is past due. Time is  
7 now. We need this symbol here in our nation's  
8 capital. Thank you.

9 CHAIR MAY: Okay. So thank you very  
10 much all of you. Does anyone on the Commission  
11 have questions for any of the three speakers?  
12 Did you have a question? Yeah.

13 COMMISSIONER FOUNTAIN: Good  
14 afternoon. Two questions I think. One I believe  
15 there's a Medal of Honor Memorial in Indianapolis  
16 and are you associated with them at all? What's  
17 the -- I mean what is your connection to that  
18 memorial, if any, and how do we take account of  
19 the fact that there is a memorial already  
20 existing?

21 MR. DANIELS: Sure. So it's our  
22 understanding that there are certainly scores of

1 Medal of Honor Memorials all throughout the  
2 country. Often times the memorial like where  
3 we're building a national museum in Arlington is  
4 to this specific recipient that came from that  
5 town or we're going to the grand opening of the  
6 Charles Coolidge Medal of Honor Heritage Center  
7 in Chattanooga.

8 The desire, similar actually to the  
9 National 9/11 Memorial and Museum in New York, is  
10 to have a central hub where the visibly of the  
11 sacrifices that were made is clear to all.

12 And in discussing with cities and  
13 individuals across the country there was a real  
14 desire that because this is the Congressional  
15 Medal of Honor, that students look at Washington,  
16 D.C. as the leadership top of our country. That  
17 it was something that felt really missing in our  
18 nation's capital to not have a monument to those  
19 that have earned the highest award in valor for  
20 combat.

21 But the idea is to make sure that all  
22 of these monument's, the ones that exist in

1 almost every state currently like the one in  
2 Indianapolis, there's a connectivity to it, but  
3 that there is a central medal in our nation -- a  
4 central monument in our nation's capital.

5 COMMISSIONER FOUNTAIN: All right,  
6 just that question. Thank you.

7 CHAIR MAY: I have a question for Mr.  
8 Daniel's as well. So one you mentioned that this  
9 memorial would be -- I mean would it be a -- some  
10 sort of construction that would actually include  
11 the names of all the Medal of Honor recipients  
12 and then therefore, would be something that would  
13 be added to over time. Hopefully not forever,  
14 but --

15 MR. DANIELS: Well, certainly we  
16 envision the monument to be one that is a living  
17 monument that recognizes the past, but has its  
18 arm open to the future. One of the ideas that  
19 we've been discussing with the recipients is to  
20 do a national design competition.

21 So currently, the largest ever  
22 national design competition was done for the 9/11

1 Memorial. It was 5,200 hundred entries and 63  
2 different countries. You had everything from  
3 Jarvik the inventor of the artificial hearts send  
4 in a memorial competition board with a heart  
5 thrown over Ground Zero to hyper realistic  
6 monuments to very abstract and of course, the  
7 eventual winner of the reflecting pools.

8 But the idea of engaging every kid,  
9 every classroom in the nation, every aspiring  
10 architect and just regular citizens who  
11 themselves as an educational opportunity can draw  
12 within their ideas around what this monument in  
13 our nation's capital could look like, I think is  
14 an area that we're very deeply exploring.

15 I think it's a great way to engage the  
16 country, bring the country together. It really  
17 reflects the values of the medal that left right,  
18 black or white, geographic location,  
19 socioeconomic class doesn't matter in coming up  
20 with the exact right representation of what the  
21 monument can look like. So that's one avenue  
22 that we're exploring.

1 CHAIR MAY: Okay. So maybe I need to  
2 ask my question more directly then. Do you  
3 imagine that there will be names on the memorial  
4 or not?

5 COMMISSIONER FOUNTAIN: You know, I  
6 think that if we do a design competition we'll  
7 have to look at the submissions, but I certainly  
8 believe that the individuality of names is of  
9 primary importance.

10 I think that whether you look at the  
11 Vietnam Wall or the 9/11 Memorial, the 2,983  
12 names on it, that there is something about  
13 providing that level of specificity. So the idea  
14 of names I would think I very much will be in the  
15 final design potentially with the hometowns where  
16 these individuals come from. Those are things  
17 that'll have to be worked out, but I think it's  
18 important to name those who have actually earned  
19 the award.

20 CHAIR MAY: Okay, thank you.

21 COMMISSIONER FOUNTAIN: Yes. You've  
22 now triggered my second question.

1 MR. DANIELS: Great.

2 COMMISSIONER FOUNTAIN: By my count  
3 almost two-thirds of the Medals of Honor were  
4 awarded before 1917. And beginning with World  
5 War I the criteria for conferring the award were  
6 tightened considerably. And most of those who  
7 received the award before then would not receive  
8 it today. They'd receive a Distinguished Service  
9 Cross, a Silver Star or Bronze Star, or even less  
10 because of the number of the awards weren't even  
11 conferred for combat. Have you thought about you  
12 would interpret that fact?

13 MR. DANIELS: Well, I think that it's  
14 a critical factor, and I think that the whole  
15 notion that those first 1,800 medals or so really  
16 were reflective of a different criteria than what  
17 are today is an essential fact. You know, that  
18 my organization, we have a two-pronged approach  
19 to this project. One is to build the monument in  
20 our nation's capital, and the other is to build a  
21 museum in America's heartland which is currently  
22 slated to be built in Arlington, Texas.

1                   So obviously the museum affords us a  
2                   great deal of area to delve into that questions  
3                   like that. There's some fascinating aspects of  
4                   American history that can be seen through the  
5                   lens of the medal, groups that didn't get the  
6                   medal at certain times and those wrongs that had  
7                   to be redressed. All of those we want to, you  
8                   know, stick to the truth of what actually  
9                   happened which is easier to do in a museum.

10                  But certainly would aspire to in the  
11                  monument itself conveying as much of the  
12                  authenticity of the experiences happened, and I  
13                  know from our supporters in the project that  
14                  fact, it's already an incredibly elite thing,  
15                  right, 3,500 medals, 45 million, 50 million plus  
16                  people that have served in our military over the  
17                  years. But when that 3,500 really is maybe 2,000  
18                  compared to the criteria of today. That's an  
19                  important notion.

20                  I do think, though, to what Pat -- to  
21                  what General Brady said, the most valuable thing  
22                  about this monument is to extract the values that

1 underlie it. So the museum may be the optimal  
2 place to get into the history and the educational  
3 pieces, whereas the monument we want to make sure  
4 has the maximum effect of inspiring kids that may  
5 never put a uniform on.

6 That may be in a place where we've all  
7 found ourselves a silent witness watching some  
8 poor kid get bullied, but because they've seen  
9 that monument or they've gone through the museum  
10 in that moment that they face, they step forward  
11 and say, hey, leave that kid alone.

12 So it's a great question of, you know,  
13 what memorials can express. Certainly you have  
14 my commitment in the museum that issues like that  
15 and others that are interesting will absolutely  
16 be clear as day. I'll have to figure out how it  
17 works for the monument. But I appreciate you  
18 bringing that up.

19 CHAIR MAY: Okay, any other questions?

20 COMMISSIONER SHERMAN: No questions.

21 Well, not for the group, for Mr. Swensen. First  
22 of all, I want to thank the Medal of Honor

1 recipients. It's rare to have two in a room and  
2 I want to thank you for your service.

3           Concerning the design competition,  
4 sounds like you're open to different ways of  
5 thinking about commemoration, and I would just  
6 like to say I would encourage you to consider  
7 that notion. And if the legislation is passed  
8 and you do decide to do a competition, to seek  
9 counsel from representatives on the Commission.  
10 We've been doing a lot of study and research on  
11 how to think about commemoration going forward.  
12 And I think that would be useful to you as you --

13           MR. DANIELS: I think that's great.  
14 It's certainly part of the reason we wanted to  
15 come here today at this early stage was to seek  
16 the advice of this Commission, start this at the  
17 right exact way it's supposed to start. And  
18 given that you guys are in many important ways  
19 the caretaker of historical land that will be  
20 here 200, 300 years from now we'd be crazy not to  
21 seek that advice. So you absolutely have our  
22 commitment.

1                   And I think the idea of a national  
2 design competition that brings not only the  
3 American people together, but Congress together  
4 is really reflective of what the medal stands for  
5 and working with this body that has so much  
6 experience would be a no brainer for us,  
7 absolutely.

8                   CHAIR MAY: Okay. Thank you very  
9 much. So we did not have anyone else signed up  
10 to testify in advance on this bill. So is there  
11 anyone in the audience seeking to speak? Again,  
12 not seeing anyone. Oh, I did? Oh, okay. Thank  
13 you.

14                  MR. ATTIG: I apologize, I came here  
15 for the Global War on Terrorism Memorial, but my  
16 name is William Attig, I'm the executive director  
17 of the Union Veteran's Council at the AFL-CIO.  
18 We represent about 4 million veterans retired or  
19 working.

20                  I had the privilege of serving during  
21 the Global War on Terror, and I was in Iraq, and  
22 I had the privilege to serve with a young man

1 that was 19 years old that if you met him you  
2 probably wouldn't think he could pick up a 50  
3 pound rucksack.

4 But at a time when crisis struck and  
5 a grenade was thrown into his Humvee on the  
6 streets of Baghdad, he jumped out of his Humvee,  
7 but knowing that his fellow warfighters in the  
8 Humvee did not hear his warning jumped back in to  
9 the Humvee and smothered the grenade.

10 The lessons that can be learned from  
11 these young men and women that sacrifice  
12 themselves is a lesson for the entire generation,  
13 entire country. So I just want to put my -- as  
14 someone who was on the streets and saw those kind  
15 of sacrifices, I just want to put my voice in  
16 support of this because it's a very powerful  
17 thing. So thank you.

18 CHAIR MAY: Thank you very much. All  
19 right, anyone else in the audience? I'll look  
20 more thoroughly this time. No. Okay. All  
21 right.

22 So I will also note that we have

1 received other pieces of testimony in advance and  
2 those are in the record, and they've been shared  
3 with the members of the Commission. I'll call in  
4 particular that we have written testimony from  
5 Congressman Ron Wright and that was again  
6 provided to all the members of the Commission.

7           So we'll move into a discussion of the  
8 bill. While H.R. 5173 includes language  
9 requiring full compliance with the Commemorative  
10 Works Act, I think we do need to point out that  
11 it does not comply on one point which is that no  
12 -- that a commemorative work commemorating an  
13 event, individual, group or individuals -- I'm  
14 sorry, event, individual or a group of  
15 individuals may not be authorized until the 25th  
16 anniversary of the event, the death of the  
17 individual, or the death of the last surviving  
18 member of the group.

19           So as currently written, H.R. 5173  
20 authorizes the current work to honor all past,  
21 present and future Medal of Honor recipients  
22 regardless of the date of death. So again, we

1 have a circumstance where what's being proposed  
2 here, and this is not a new thing for the  
3 Commission to deal with. We've grappled with  
4 this situation for numerous memorials in the  
5 past.

6 And I think that one of the things  
7 that resonated with me in the discussion of -- in  
8 the testimony was the notion that this is more  
9 about the values represented in those honored  
10 with the Medal of Honor than the valor of those  
11 individuals. I mean I think those things are  
12 tied together and we did sort of hear kind of a  
13 bit of back and forth.

14 It is about the individuals. It's  
15 about their valor, but then it's more importantly  
16 about the values they represent. And it is one  
17 of those areas where I feel like the  
18 Commemorative Works Act doesn't necessarily  
19 recognize all of the things that are important to  
20 the country and how they would be -- and what we  
21 should be commemorating.

22 I think that in this circumstance, you

1 know, what has happened in the past with  
2 proposals like this is to rephrase the bill so  
3 that it will be consistent with the Act where it  
4 talks about the commitment and service and  
5 sacrifice, and those sorts of principles. In  
6 this circumstance, I don't know that that would  
7 really make sense particularly if there's going  
8 to be a list of names as part of that.

9 I think one of the things that if this  
10 does manage to come into law ,that one of the  
11 things that will be a concern to this Commission  
12 and to other commissions is the wall of names or  
13 the inclusion of a names in a very obvious way  
14 because it can really be a very thorny thing.

15 I don't think in this circumstance it  
16 won't be as thorny. We won't be adding names  
17 that are -- the way we seem to -- we are  
18 continuing to do at Vietnam and where we  
19 struggled to have the right names listed when  
20 we're trying to recognize everyone who served, or  
21 everyone who was killed in the line of duty. The  
22 number of the Medal of Honor recipients are going

1 to be a known group and it's not like that it  
2 changed.

3               Nonetheless, the typology of having  
4 names listed as part of a memorial is something  
5 that this Commission and the other approving  
6 commissions have struggled with over the years.  
7 And if it truly is about the values and not the  
8 individuals, that may not be the best way to  
9 communicate that.

10              All that being said, I think that this  
11 is a circumstance where at least where I come  
12 down on it is that I would like to see some  
13 recognition in the legislation that this is about  
14 something bigger than honoring those individuals  
15 because that's certainly what we heard today.  
16 And I think that when we start to embrace that  
17 aspect of it, the notion that this might be  
18 inconsistent with the Commemorative Works Act  
19 becomes more palatable.

20              Somewhat along the lines of what we  
21 decided when considering the Global War on Terror  
22 and how that didn't quite fit the strict confines

1 of the Commemorative Works Act. But that's my  
2 opening speech. I'm interested in hearing what  
3 the rest of the Commission has to say as always.

4 COMMISSIONER LUEBKE: I have a  
5 question. Well, a couple observations. One is  
6 there's a kind of interesting tension here with  
7 this amazing recognition of amazing service which  
8 clearly deserves some kind of national  
9 recognition. It's funny though because the more  
10 you talk -- to really learn from the stories you  
11 actually need a museum. And apparently you're  
12 getting that. You're actually working on that.

13 And so it's a sort of a -- it's sort  
14 of a quandary like because to really understand  
15 it, you need to hear the stories of the  
16 individuals. It's very hard to convey that in a  
17 monument. And I'm glad you used that term  
18 because it is to mark and to remember, but not  
19 necessarily the sense of to mourn. It's living  
20 memorial, people being added to it all the time  
21 who have proven this valor at a very young age  
22 and who might be with us for generations.

1                   So it's an odd -- again, it's a  
2                   categorical issue and I don't know how to quite  
3                   conceive of it. It clearly has a problem with  
4                   the Commemorative Works Act language. One thing  
5                   is I note, it's a question I'm going to probably  
6                   sound dumb by asking it, but is this entirely a  
7                   military honor?

8                   COMMISSIONER MCMAHON: Yes.

9                   COMMISSIONER LUEBKE: So I thought so.  
10                  My hunch is the easiest way to convey this  
11                  because of its military category is to actually  
12                  associate it with Arlington National Cemetery in  
13                  some way. I don't know whether that is possible.  
14                  I think we're still stuck with the Commemorative  
15                  Works Act between area one, two no matter what.  
16                  Is that correct, Mr. Chairman?

17                  CHAIR MAY: No. If it's on the land  
18                  of Arlington National Cemetery, then it would not  
19                  be subject to the Commemorative Works Act. It  
20                  would --

21                  COMMISSIONER LUEBKE: What about the  
22                  expansion which is now suddenly left the Park

1 Service and now in ANC jurisdiction?

2 CHAIR MAY: Correct. So for those of  
3 you who don't know this, a portion of the  
4 National Park Service land extending from the  
5 Women in Military Service to America Memorial all  
6 the way up to the Route 1100 overpass was  
7 transferred from the Park Service to the  
8 Department of Defense to be operated as part of  
9 Arlington National Cemetery.

10 And so many of the memorials that are  
11 in the niches in the hedgerow there and along  
12 with the Women in Military Service to America,  
13 that all became part of Arlington's property.

14 COMMISSIONER LUEBKE: What I don't  
15 understand is whether it matters to the  
16 interpretation of the Act, the Commemorative  
17 Works Act.

18 CHAIR MAY: So ultimately, the key  
19 thing here is that land that's under DOD is not  
20 subject to the Act. So none of that area would  
21 be.

22 COMMISSIONER LUEBKE: So understood,

1 and I'm sorry to open a can of worms about site  
2 selection because it's not really the topic of  
3 the day. Clearly this is such an amazing honor  
4 and it ought to be marked somehow. And I'm just  
5 trying to find -- I'm trying to think creatively  
6 about how you can do it in a way that is  
7 appropriate.

8 It's off, you know, is presented in a  
9 way -- and it just strikes me that that maybe a  
10 way of thinking about it. I don't have more to  
11 say about it. Obviously we have a categorical  
12 problem with the Act.

13 So I'm very supportive of the idea of  
14 some kind of monument. Not, you know, we've got  
15 a museum elsewhere. And so it can't do  
16 everything. It has to actually be simply  
17 something that can be used for that honoring as  
18 opposed to so much about explaining.

19 CHAIR MAY: Right.

20 COMMISSIONER LUEBKE: Anyway, those  
21 are my comments.

22 CHAIR MAY: Thank you very much.

1 Other comments?

2 COMMISSIONER LUEBKE: So everyone  
3 agrees with me? No. Mr. Fountain?

4 COMMISSIONER FOUNTAIN: Well, the  
5 relationship that Mr. Luebke drew between the  
6 museum and the monument is an interesting one for  
7 me. I mean I think on that basis and recognizing  
8 the wrinkle of the Commemorative Works Act  
9 requirement, but agreeing with your work around  
10 that, Chairman May, on that basis I'm in favor of  
11 this.

12 That said there's the constant  
13 question do national monuments or national  
14 memorials have to be in Washington? And I  
15 recognize that's an ironic statement coming from  
16 me. Why on earth would you put a monument and a  
17 national museum somewhere else in the country?

18 COMMISSIONER WRIGHT: I'm glad you  
19 said that.

20 COMMISSIONER FOUNTAIN: And that's  
21 come up later. I mean the same question is going  
22 to come up later this afternoon with respect to

1 some of the other proposals. That said, I would  
2 still support a Medal of Honor monument here in  
3 the nation's capital for many of the reasons  
4 articulated in the presentation, but I think  
5 there is that overall context to consider. And  
6 now you throw in the presidential libraries as  
7 well as, you know, why do we need a presidential  
8 memorial in Washington if there's already a  
9 presidential library? And I recognize that's not  
10 an original thought to me.

11 I think there are interesting  
12 interpretive questions as suggested by my  
13 question. The flip side of my question is, you  
14 know, because the requirements of the Medal of  
15 Honor have become so stringent there's a very  
16 fine line between say a Medal of Honor and a  
17 Distinguished Service Cross, and I think that's  
18 something else that could be played out in the  
19 interpretation at a museum but probably won't  
20 challenge you to do in a monument.

21 I'd be dubious about names for the  
22 reason I indicated in question. But that's

1 something that's comes down later in the road.

2 So I think there is a question does, you know,  
3 which memorials need to be in Washington, but  
4 this one I'd support putting in Washington.

5 COMMISSIONER SHERMAN: I'd just like  
6 to say I'll concur with Mr. Luebke's comment  
7 about a museum versus a monument, and I think one  
8 of the challenges we see is having a monument or  
9 a commemorative work try to tell the entire story  
10 which might be better told in a museum. And so I  
11 would just like to say that I encourage you to  
12 continue to look at a museum as a way to tell  
13 those individual stories. And really as part of  
14 a competition use the monument to be a marker for  
15 a symbol of the values as opposed to trying to  
16 tell each individual story.

17 COMMISSIONER MALONEY: I'd also  
18 support the proposal and the applicant's openness  
19 to figuring out through competition how to do  
20 this I think is very welcome. And it strikes me  
21 that the issues with the Commemorative Works Act  
22 can be resolved. And you've been creative about

1       this in the past, Mr. Chairman, and I think you  
2       seem to sense a way that it can be helpful here  
3       as well.

4               COMMISSIONER WRIGHT: I have a  
5       question now, a day late and a dollar short.  
6       Sorry. But somebody made an illusion to this not  
7       being forever, meaning there's a finite number of  
8       medals. You're just being optimistic, right?

9               MR. DANIELS: Well, just the hope that  
10      the circumstances --

11              COMMISSIONER WRIGHT: We would hope  
12      that no one would ever get one --

13              MR. DANIELS: -- that create  
14      recipients --

15              COMMISSIONER WRIGHT: -- again because  
16      the circumstances --

17              MR. DANIELS: Exactly.

18              COMMISSIONER WRIGHT: -- would not  
19      exist to allow for that.

20              MR. DANIELS: Exactly.

21              COMMISSIONER WRIGHT: Okay.

22              MR. DANIELS: Aspiration.

1                   COMMISSIONER WRIGHT: All right.  
2           That's what I thought. So I also think that this  
3           is a sort of an interesting problem, and I would  
4           encourage you to think about an online component  
5           to an eventual memorial. And it's interesting  
6           right, this sort of -- there's a pedagogical  
7           component that you're talking about which is  
8           going to be hard to do.

9                   It's going to be hard to teach about  
10          values with a marker that doesn't get literal.  
11          Oh, please don't get literal. And on the one  
12          hand, the values that you're trying to impart,  
13          it's going to be difficult to do that without  
14          evoking the individual stories and the  
15          individuals.

16                   But if you list the names and you make  
17          the memorial about the individuals, then  
18          something of the larger import, and that sounds  
19          awful, doesn't it? God. I don't mean it that  
20          way. But what I'm saying is that the  
21          distillation of those values, imparting those in  
22          an abstract way it seems to me is what you're

1 going to be for, and that sets up a really hard  
2 conflict with the idea of listing the names,  
3 which is kind of what we do now in commemoration.

4 And I hope that we'll stop doing that,  
5 and the reason I hope we'll stop doing that is  
6 because -- and your project will be particularly  
7 interesting for this because there's a  
8 competition between the idea of an individual's  
9 experience and the reason in this case that he or  
10 she receives the medal.

11 It's in conflict with the story that's  
12 taken away from that memorial by a kid who you're  
13 hoping to inspire getting too focused on the  
14 individual and the details of that story versus  
15 the larger, more abstract idea and ideal that  
16 you're celebrating, and commemorating, and  
17 proposing as a thought piece to inspire the  
18 future generations. So you got to a real problem  
19 on your hands to resolve.

20 MR. DANIELS: Can I speak to that?

21 COMMISSIONER WRIGHT: Sure. Please.

22 MR. DANIELS: I would just say it's a

1       problem that we embrace and I know it's a  
2       challenge.

3                   COMMISSIONER WRIGHT:   Good.

4                   MR. DANIELS:   I think that just one  
5       example that I'd like to give is that, you know,  
6       when you hear big words like patriotism and  
7       heroism that it's hard to humanize on an  
8       individual level and how do you take an  
9       individual story and take away the bigger --

10                  COMMISSIONER WRIGHT:   Right.

11                  MR. DANIELS:   -- messages.   But I  
12       think this team, particularly with the 9/11  
13       Memorial and Museum, the reason why it's as  
14       effective in teaching people that when the times  
15       require this country comes together with  
16       limitless compassion is hearing the stories of  
17       the individuals --

18                  COMMISSIONER WRIGHT:   Right.

19                  MR. DANIELS:   -- on Flight 93 --

20                  COMMISSIONER WRIGHT:   Right.

21                  MR. DANIELS:   -- that were leaving  
22       voicemails or doing --

1 COMMISSIONER WRIGHT: Right.

2 MR. DANIELS: So it's that. But it is  
3 that balance. It's like you capture --

4 COMMISSIONER WRIGHT: Right.

5 MR. DANIELS: -- something emotionally  
6 through individual stories, but you need to make  
7 the larger point about what it means in the  
8 grander scheme of things and we relish that.

9 COMMISSIONER WRIGHT: Right. So  
10 seeking to animate what -- all I want to leave  
11 with you is the conflict that you so eloquently  
12 described much better than I did, that animating  
13 those ideas I hope will -- oh, never mind. I'm  
14 not going to say anything. Just I'm glad you're  
15 aware of this --

16 MR. DANIELS: We are.

17 COMMISSIONER WRIGHT: -- conundrum.  
18 And this memorial will be really -- you've got a  
19 real task in front of you because I think the  
20 values are super important. The example you gave  
21 about the bullying kid, that matters.

22 MR. DANIELS: That matters, you bet.

1 COMMISSIONER WRIGHT: So --

2 MR. DANIELS: With your help.

3 COMMISSIONER WRIGHT: -- go forth and  
4 prosper.

5 CHAIR MAY: Any other comments?

6 COMMISSIONER TURNBULL: Mr. Chair?

7 CHAIR MAY: Yes?

8 COMMISSIONER TURNBULL: Yeah, I don't  
9 have a real comment, I think everything's been  
10 pretty well covered. Hopefully you can take all  
11 of the abstract, figurative, literal, specific  
12 and unspecific language you've heard and put it  
13 into something that can go back to Congress.

14 COMMISSIONER WRIGHT: Speaking of  
15 aspirations.

16 CHAIR MAY: Should I have Commissioner  
17 Wright help me?

18 COMMISSIONER WRIGHT: No, no.

19 COMMISSIONER TURNBULL: Well, she  
20 mentioned something, it had me a little worried.  
21 She was talking about on the one hand, and I  
22 don't know if she was referring back to something

1 else, or what.

2 CHAIR MAY: All right, we're getting  
3 a little punchy. So any other comments? Okay,  
4 so what I would propose is that we send a letter  
5 that basically states that the Commission is  
6 generally supportive of the principle behind this  
7 commemorative work.

8 Note the inconsistency with the 25  
9 year rule of the Commemorative Works Act, and  
10 note the testimony which went more to the values  
11 rather than valor, that was one of the phrases we  
12 heard. But something that encompasses that. And  
13 recommend that the language be modified just a  
14 bit to express that principle a bit more  
15 strongly. And --

16 COMMISSIONER WRIGHT: Because it's --  
17 --

18 CHAIR MAY: Yeah.

19 COMMISSIONER WRIGHT: The reason I  
20 asked the question about the continuum because  
21 that's another thing that sort of sets it -- like  
22 the --

1 CHAIR MAY: Yes. Right.

2 COMMISSIONER WRIGHT: -- Global War on  
3 Terror, the Peace Corp and these continuum  
4 things. I mean we've dealt with it enough by now  
5 that should be --

6 CHAIR MAY: Yeah.

7 COMMISSIONER WRIGHT: That should help  
8 I would assume.

9 CHAIR MAY: Right. Yes. Okay. Mr.  
10 Luebke?

11 COMMISSIONER LUEBKE: Not that --  
12 well, it creates an ongoing problems probably.

13 COMMISSIONER WRIGHT: Right.

14 COMMISSIONER LUEBKE: If you don't  
15 mind, I wouldn't mind if you could include  
16 encouraging the consideration of a DOD property  
17 that would actually be maybe useful in finding an  
18 appropriate setting.

19 CHAIR MAY: Certainly. I would be  
20 happy to include that --

21 COMMISSIONER LUEBKE: I don't want to  
22 --

1 CHAIR MAY: -- as a comment. Yeah.

2 COMMISSIONER LUEBKE: I don't think  
3 it's worth directing in any way.

4 CHAIR MAY: Correct. Yeah.

5 COMMISSIONER LUEBKE: But I think it  
6 could help --

7 CHAIR MAY: Right.

8 COMMISSIONER LUEBKE: -- in the site  
9 selection.

10 CHAIR MAY: Well, certainly, you know,  
11 when we write this letters, we can include  
12 additional comments, and I think we can note that  
13 the Commission thought that it may be appropriate  
14 for this to be located on or near DOD property.  
15 Or maybe perhaps specifically site Arlington  
16 National Cemetery.

17 COMMISSIONER LUEBKE: The Pentagon  
18 would be probably.

19 CHAIR MAY: Sure. Okay. All right.  
20 Mr. Sherman?

21 COMMISSIONER SHERMAN: One last  
22 question. Is the museum going to consider

1 federal or go the congressional route? Do we  
2 know? Or is that part of your planning, or --

3 MR. DANIELS: Part of what H.R. 5173  
4 does is to designate the museum as America's  
5 national Medal of Honor museum similar to what  
6 the World War II designation down in New Orleans  
7 does for that museum.

8 Our basic undertaking is going to be  
9 a philanthropic effort. So we expect to raise 80  
10 plus percent of the money from the American  
11 people, and then at some future point we may come  
12 before the government, the federal sources, or  
13 the state and city and say we'd like contribution  
14 and public/private partnership. But before doing  
15 any of that, we'd want to show Congress that the  
16 vast majority of the funds came from our  
17 fundraising efforts for both the monument and  
18 museum.

19 CHAIR MAY: Okay. Thank you very  
20 much. So unless we have any other comments to  
21 throw into what we will put into the letter, then  
22 I would ask for a motion to approve that as the

1       basic content of it.   So --

2                   COMMISSIONER MCMAHON:   So moved.

3                   CHAIR MAY:   And second?

4                   COMMISSIONER LUEBKE:   Second.

5                   CHAIR MAY:   All right.   All in favor?

6                   (Chorus of ayes)

7                   CHAIR MAY:   All right.   Thank you very  
8       much.   So we are now three hours into our  
9       meeting.   We're about halfway through the number  
10      of items on the agenda.   But I expect the rest of  
11      the day to go a little bit faster.   All that  
12      being said, three hours is a long time to be  
13      sitting and I think we need a five minute break.

14                  COMMISSIONER WRIGHT:   I think we need  
15      coffee.

16                  CHAIR MAY:   Well, I wish I had coffee  
17      for you, but all I can give you is a break.   So  
18      we'll be back and please try to keep it to just  
19      five minutes.   Thank you.

20                  (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter  
21      went off the record at 3:34 p.m. and resumed at  
22      3:47 p.m.)

1 CHAIR MAY: Okay. So we are reconvening  
2 now for the rest of our afternoon. Hopefully, it  
3 will move smoothly and quickly.

4 Next on the agenda is H.R. 3349, the  
5 Texas Legation Memorial Act. This bill was  
6 introduced on June 19th by Congressman Lloyd  
7 Doggett. The bill was referred to the House  
8 Natural Resources Subcommittee on National Parks,  
9 Forests, and Public Lands. The subcommittee held  
10 a hearing on December 4th, 2019.

11 At the hearing, Department of the  
12 Interior testimony recommended that the  
13 subcommittee defer action on this legislation  
14 until this Commission has had a chance to review  
15 it, and this is our opportunity to do just that.

16 Now, we will hear testimony from Kitty  
17 Hoeck -- I'm sorry, I'm not sure if I'm  
18 pronouncing that correctly -- chapter historian  
19 for the District of Columbia, Virginia, and  
20 Maryland Chapter of the Daughters of the Republic  
21 of Texas. Ms. Hoeck, would you please come to  
22 the podium and testify?

1 Oh, I'm sorry, I missed it.

2 Congressman Doggett's staff person is here, as

3 well, to speak. Sarah Laven-Jones, please.

4 Thank you very much. Sorry about that.

5 MS. LAVEN-JONES: Oh, no problem.

6 Thank you. Good afternoon, distinguished members

7 of the National Capital Memorial Advisory

8 Commission. I'm Sarah Laven-Jones, and I serve

9 as the legislative assistant for Congressman

10 Doggett. The Congressman regrets that he's

11 unable to attend the hearing today himself, but

12 he has sent me to convey his support for H.R.

13 3349, the Republic of Texas Legation Memorial

14 Act. If he was not caught up in a ways and means

15 tax hearing, he would be here to present the

16 following testimony.

17 Thank you for your consideration of my

18 proposed bipartisan legislation, the Republic of

19 Texas Legation Memorial Act, H.R. 3349, which

20 would authorize the Daughters of the Republic of

21 Texas to establish a commemorative work in the

22 District of Columbia for the Republic of Texas

1       legation at a location determined by the National  
2       Park Service and the Daughters of the Republic of  
3       Texas.

4               This bipartisan effort is supported by  
5       a number of my colleagues from Texas, as well as  
6       Representative Eleanor Holmes Norton, who  
7       represents the area where the memorial would  
8       eventually reside.

9               I welcome the opportunity to share  
10      with you today the importance of the work of the  
11      Texas legation and its national significance in  
12      shaping our history that merit commemoration in  
13      our nation's capital.

14              The history of the Texas legation and  
15      its significance to American history is as broad  
16      as the pride held by present-day Texans over the  
17      days of their once independent republic. In  
18      1848, Texas became the 28th state to join the  
19      union, an addition that benefitted both Texans  
20      and the United States alike. Through the  
21      annexation of Texas, the United States gained its  
22      largest state in continental America and,

1 eventually, slightly better barbeque.

2           From 1836 to 1845, the Texas legation  
3 negotiated the terms by which Texas would join  
4 the United States. While some might associate  
5 the Republic of Texas with the geography of the  
6 state in current day, the territory of the  
7 Republic of Texas was once even more extensive.  
8 It included what is now the state of Texas, as  
9 well as parts of Oklahoma, Kansas, Colorado,  
10 Wyoming, and New Mexico. The legation was not  
11 only working on behalf of citizens who lived in  
12 present-day Texas, it also represented many who  
13 would later become Americans throughout what are  
14 now other American states.

15           At the time, the Republic of Texas had  
16 many debts and challenges from abroad. To  
17 resolve these through diplomatic means, the  
18 legation sought assistance from American and  
19 European allies. Today, we find plaques about  
20 the Texas legation in London and Paris, but, in a  
21 major omission, there is not yet one here in  
22 Washington where the legation's work left its

1 most significant legacy by negotiating the terms  
2 of the annexation of Texas.

3 The legation's work in Washington,  
4 D.C. operated out of a number of boarding houses,  
5 some near the present-day National Archives and  
6 Navy Memorial, which is appropriate as one of the  
7 diplomats at the time was Mr. Memucan Hunt, who  
8 was also secretary of the fledgling Republic of  
9 Texas Navy.

10 Should my legislation receive a  
11 favorable recommendation from this commission and  
12 become law, the Daughters of the Republic of  
13 Texas, which is our state's oldest patriotic  
14 women's organization, will serve as the stewards  
15 for this work and will work together with the  
16 National Park Service to develop and design a  
17 location for the work, a location within  
18 Washington, D.C. approved by the Park Service.

19 The Republic of Texas Legation  
20 Memorial Act is written to ensure compliance with  
21 the Commemorative Works Act in the following  
22 ways: by prohibiting the use of federal funds to

1 establish the memorial, by requiring that any  
2 excess funds go to the Secretary of the Interior,  
3 and designating that, if authorization to build  
4 the memorial expires, then funds will be  
5 transferred to the National Park Foundation for  
6 other memorials.

7           The history of the Texas legation did  
8 not end with the annexation of Texas in 1945.  
9 Today, it lives on and has been improved through  
10 the strength of the multi-cultural and multi-  
11 lingual communities that make up the territory of  
12 the legation which they successfully annexed, not  
13 just Texas but, again, parts of New Mexico,  
14 Oklahoma, Kansas, Colorado, and Wyoming.

15           By creating a commemorative work to  
16 remember the Texas legation, all those who visit  
17 our nation's capital will have the opportunity to  
18 learn about this turning point in our nation's  
19 history and reflect on the sacrifices made by the  
20 diplomats who made it possible. It is also an  
21 opportunity to reflect on how Texas's legacy of  
22 independence has been broadened and deepened by

1 recognizing the rights of those who were once  
2 denied them.

3 I thank the Commission for the  
4 consideration of our request, and I urge that  
5 they vote in support of establishing this  
6 commemorative work. Thank you.

7 CHAIR MAY: Thank you very much. Do  
8 we have any questions for Ms. Laven-Jones? No.  
9 Oh, yes?

10 COMMISSIONER LUEBKE: Your testimony  
11 mentioned, I think, plaques in other cities, you  
12 know, London or something, Paris perhaps, which  
13 begs the question do you have an idea of the  
14 scale of this? Are you asking for a plaque, or  
15 are you asking for something much more, you know,  
16 bigger or possibly with even interpretative  
17 content? That's my question.

18 MS. LAVEN-JONES: I would defer that  
19 answer to Kitty, who is going to be speaking for  
20 the Daughters of the Republic of Texas, because  
21 it's not the role of Congress to decide what the  
22 work would be. So she can speak to that, if

1       that's okay.

2                   Thank you.

3                   CHAIR MAY: Thank you very much. So  
4       Ms. Hoeck?

5                   MS. HOECK: Good afternoon, and thank  
6       you to the National Capital Memorial Advisory  
7       Commission for providing a forum for the  
8       Daughters of the Republic of Texas to share with  
9       you why we believe that support for H.R. 3349,  
10      the Republic of Texas Legation Memorial Act, is  
11      warranted. Chairman May and members of the  
12      Commission, thank you for your interest in our  
13      project.

14                  One of our chapter goals is placing a  
15      memorial in Washington, D.C. where the Republic  
16      of Texas diplomatic ministers worked on behalf of  
17      the Texas citizens. These diplomats were tasked  
18      with getting financial assistance, managing  
19      diplomatic relations with Mexico, and,  
20      ultimately, annexation by the United States.  
21      Between 1836 and 1845, the Republic of Texas sent  
22      diplomats to London, Paris, Brussels, Amsterdam,

1 and Washington, D.C. The legation sites in Paris  
2 and London have been marked with historical  
3 plaques for many years but not Washington, D.C.  
4 We would like a similar memorial at or near one  
5 of the listed sites for the Republic of Texas  
6 legation to the United States so that the legacy  
7 of the legation and its importance to our nation  
8 can be remembered here on American soil, as well  
9 as in Europe.

10 The history of the Republic of Texas  
11 and their legation to the United States  
12 represents a pivotal time in American history.  
13 Through the newly-established 1823 Mexican  
14 government's invitation and encouragement,  
15 American colonists settled in the sparsely-  
16 populated northern region of Mexico. Riffs  
17 between the new colonists and the Mexican  
18 government became apparent early with various  
19 issues, such as land titles, religion, and  
20 slavery, as Mexico had abolished slavery in 1829  
21 and the United States had not.

22 In 1833, Santa Anna was elected

1 president of Mexico. After suspending the  
2 Mexican constitution of 1824, tensions and  
3 disillusion with Santa Anna's brutal policies  
4 led several of the Mexican states, Zacatecas,  
5 Coahuila, Yucatan, and Texas to openly revolt  
6 against his rule. On March 2nd in 1836 at  
7 Washington on the Brazos, a group of Texans  
8 declared independence from Mexico while at the  
9 same time Santa Anna and his army of over 2500  
10 soldiers laid siege to the Alamo for 13 days and  
11 its 187 Texans. Santa Anna declared all who took  
12 up arms as pirates and rebels deserving of  
13 execution.

14           Texans and Americans angered by the  
15 massacre may remember the Alamo their  
16 inspirational battle cry. On March 27th, 1836,  
17 after the Texans lost the Battle of Coleto, 425  
18 to 445 Texas prisoners of war were rounded up,  
19 shot, and their bodies burned, adding another  
20 rallying cry of remember Goliad.

21           The Texas revolution was not over.  
22 There would be one more decisive battle. On

1 April 21st, 1836, Sam Houston's ragtag army  
2 surprised Santa Anna at San Jacinto. Santa Anna  
3 and his army were caught off guard, were routed,  
4 and, as the Texans attacked, crying out remember  
5 the Alamo, remember Goliad, Santa Anna was  
6 captured. His army surrendered and a peace  
7 negotiated in the ensuing days.

8 To establish legitimacy as an  
9 independent nation, the Republic of Texas needed  
10 recognition by other sovereign nations. The new  
11 republic's needs included financial assistance as  
12 the treasury was nearly empty and protection from  
13 subsequent invasion by Mexico. The Republic's  
14 ultimate goal was annexation by the United  
15 States.

16 Other business of the Republic of  
17 Texas legation included negotiating treaties of  
18 amity, commerce, and navigation. They also  
19 negotiated boundaries, as well as secured loans.

20 To satisfy these needs, the new  
21 government established diplomatic relations with  
22 France, England, the Netherlands, Belgium, and

1 the United States through their new diplomatic  
2 core. With little financial support from Texas,  
3 these diplomats were not able to establish formal  
4 embassies. The term legation was used to  
5 describe the Texas ministers.

6           Wherever the minister worked on behalf  
7 of the Texas Republic became the official  
8 Republic of Texas legation. The ministers in  
9 Washington, D.C. actually worked out of the  
10 boarding houses where they lived, as did  
11 senators, congressman, and others who came to  
12 Washington to work.

13           Leaving Texas to come to work in  
14 Washington city was a hardship for the Texas  
15 diplomats. Often, the ministers had to fund  
16 their own operations and wait to be reimbursed.  
17 Charge d'affaires Isaac Van Zandt's trip from  
18 Texas to Washington required the use of a carry-  
19 all buggy with a good team of horses, a  
20 steamboat, a stagecoach, a sleigh, and a train.  
21 One Texas diplomat, James Riley, writes to  
22 another Texas diplomat, Isaac Van Zandt, are you

1 still at Madam Ann Bowens, alias Starvation Hall?  
2 Van Zandt writes to Riley, the government starves  
3 all its ministers I view their conduct  
4 inexcusable in not paying their foreign ministers  
5 promptly.

6 When Van Zandt's family arrived in  
7 Washington sometime later, they stayed in  
8 Alexandria, Virginia for a few months. In K.M.  
9 Van Zandt's autobiography, this is Isaac Van  
10 Zandt's son, he writes, I expect my father wanted  
11 to rub some of the country off of us before  
12 taking us into Washington.

13 The diplomatic work of the Republic of  
14 Texas legation to the United States ultimately  
15 came to an end on 29 December, 1845 when  
16 legislation was signed into law to annex Texas  
17 and declare it the 28th state. The annexation of  
18 Texas was a major cause of the U.S.-Mexican war  
19 in 1846. The war ended in 1848 with the signing  
20 of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo in which the  
21 United States acquired all or part of New Mexico,  
22 Arizona, Utah, California, Colorado, Nevada, and

1 Wyoming for \$15 million. In total, with the  
2 annexation of Texas and the acquisition of land  
3 in the Southwest, the U.S. added over 900,000  
4 square miles of territory. The United States now  
5 stretched from one side of the North American  
6 continent to the other.

7 Our chapter, with the assistance of  
8 Professor of History Dr. Kenneth Stevens of Texas  
9 Christian University, has located several sites  
10 where the Republic's ministers boarded. William  
11 Morton, Branch Archer, and Stephen F. Austin  
12 traveled to Washington in 1836 to secure aid from  
13 the United States. William Morton became the  
14 Republic's first official diplomatic minister.  
15 Through his work, the Republic of Texas gained  
16 diplomatic recognition from the United States,  
17 opening the door to later annexation and  
18 statehood, all the while working out of their  
19 boarding houses.

20 Our committee and Dr. Stevens'  
21 research lists the following focal points for the  
22 Texas legation diplomatic affairs operations:

1 Mrs. Page's Boarding House opposite Center  
2 Market, which today is a site near the National  
3 Navy Memorial; Mrs. Pitman's Boarding House on  
4 the west side of Third Street between  
5 Pennsylvania Avenue and C Street; William B.  
6 Bryant Annex to the E. Barrett Prettyman U.S.  
7 Courthouse; Gatsby's Hotel, also known as the  
8 National Hotel, at Pennsylvania Avenue and 6th  
9 Street, N.W. Today, this is a building formally  
10 known as the Newseum.

11 Mr. Lawrence's Boarding House was near  
12 Gatsby's Hotel. Today, this is the Canadian  
13 Embassy. Mrs. Bowen's Boarding House was at 6th  
14 Street between D and E Streets. Today, this is  
15 the Patrick Henry Building. A site on  
16 Pennsylvania Avenue one square west of the War  
17 Department today is where there's a large  
18 commercial building. A house on F Street between  
19 13th and 14th Streets, next door to John Quincy  
20 Adams' home, today this site is another large  
21 commercial building. Mr. Underwood's house at  
22 New Jersey Avenue and Capitol Hill. Today, this

1 site appears to be Cannon House office building.

2 Since the enactment of the 1986  
3 commemorative works, there have been 35  
4 commemorative works authorized by Congress in the  
5 Capital area. We noticed four memorials are for  
6 people, places, or tragedies occurring outside  
7 the United States. Also, as a precedent, in  
8 1974, the National Park Service placed a plaque  
9 honoring a diplomatic site at Ashburton House,  
10 1525 H Street, N.W., Washington, D.C.

11 As an independent and sovereign nation  
12 for nearly ten years, the Republic of Texas sent  
13 eight diplomatic ministers to the U.S. during the  
14 ten-year history of the Republic of Texas, and we  
15 need a memorial to commemorate this part of our  
16 history in the area where they served, our  
17 nation's capital.

18 With plaques already venerating Texas  
19 diplomats in Paris and London, we feel a memorial  
20 honoring the men of the Republic of Texas  
21 legation in Washington, D.C. is richly warranted.  
22 Therefore, the Daughters of the Republic of Texas

1 would like to place a similar memorial within the  
2 Pennsylvania Avenue national historic site or  
3 nearby to memorialize the Republic of Texas  
4 legation at one of the above sites. This  
5 proposal is a bipartisan issue costing the  
6 citizen of the United States zero dollars with  
7 memorial funding provided by the Daughters of the  
8 Republic of Texas.

9 Please consider assisting us in  
10 honoring these men by supporting H.R. 3349, the  
11 Republic of Texas Legation Memorial Act.  
12 Remember the Alamo is emblazoned in American  
13 history and commemorating the Republic reminds us  
14 of our proud heritage and rich history, not only  
15 of Texans but what it means to be an American.  
16 Let's commemorate this part of American history.

17 CHAIR MAY: Thank you very much. Do  
18 we have any questions for Ms. Hoeck? I do have  
19 one. Just so we can understand, you provided  
20 this list of sites.

21 MS. HOECK: Yes.

22 CHAIR MAY: And these are all sites

1       that could be commemorative. And as I recall  
2       from prior discussions about this that it was,  
3       the intention was to try to do plaques on  
4       buildings. Is that now evolved into doing a  
5       single commemorative work that notes all these  
6       locations or --

7               MS. HOECK: One plaque or memorial to  
8       cover all of them. The buildings that are  
9       privately owned I've contacted, I've tried to  
10      contact I should say, and I don't get anything  
11      back. So that kind of went out the -- I thought  
12      privately-held buildings would be the easiest way  
13      to go, and it isn't if they don't call you back.

14             CHAIR MAY: Understood. Okay. Any  
15      other -- but just to be clear, a single monument  
16      of some sort --

17             MS. HOECK: Yes.

18             CHAIR MAY: -- a plaque or whatever,  
19      recognized that these, this is what happened and  
20      perhaps listing those locations?

21             MS. HOECK: Yes, if we can get that.  
22      I mean, we've thought about something in the

1 sidewalk. Well, I don't think that's going to  
2 work to put all the different sites. But what  
3 we're looking for is one place where people who  
4 don't know the history of Texas or Texans and  
5 their children come to Washington, they can know  
6 that there were people here representing the  
7 Republic in those days.

8 CHAIR MAY: Okay. Thank you very much  
9 for that clarification. Is there anyone else --  
10 sorry. Is there anyone else in the audience who  
11 wanted to speak to this? We didn't have anybody  
12 else who signed up in advance. Okay, all right.  
13 Thank you. I'll open to suggestions. Mr.  
14 Luebke.

15 COMMISSIONER LUEBKE: Well, I mean,  
16 Mr. Chairman, I think this is a fascinating, sort  
17 of probably little known part of American history  
18 and it would be great if that were brought to  
19 people's awareness. I don't know exactly what it  
20 means physically, but if it's one plaque it seems  
21 like a fairly easy way of illustrating or  
22 presenting this information. I think it would be

1 very difficult if there was a proposal here to  
2 put up ten plaques for every location. And  
3 there's so many, it's hard to deal with.

4 Obviously, there's a cluster around --  
5 again, this isn't really about the site location,  
6 but I do have a suggestion. A lot of them are  
7 clustered around Market Square, which is mostly  
8 sort of a larger government, it would be  
9 difficult to do there.

10 There is a Texas connection with one  
11 of the sites, which is the building just to the,  
12 17th and Pennsylvania that is a private office  
13 building being redone. It was built by the Texas  
14 former General Anson Mills from El Paso and the  
15 descendent to that family who are still in El  
16 Paso own that building and there may be an  
17 opportunity there. Just a thought in passing.  
18 We just happened to work with them on changes to  
19 that property.

20 So, anyway, I find it just abstractly  
21 fascinating and easy to support.

22 CHAIR MAY: So, Ms. Hoeck, could we

1 ask a question about that? Could you please come  
2 to the microphone? I'm just curious as to  
3 whether you actually had any contact with the  
4 Mills family that owns that building at 17th and  
5 Pennsylvania.

6 MS. HOECK: No, I have not. 17th and  
7 Pennsylvania, there's a commercial building  
8 there. Does that belong to the Mills family?

9 COMMISSIONER LUEBKE: Their name is  
10 something else now.

11 MS. HOECK: Oh, okay.

12 COMMISSIONER LUEBKE: I mean the  
13 descendants.

14 CHAIR MAY: It was descendants of  
15 Anson Mills.

16 MS. HOECK: Oh, okay. Because I  
17 thought, at one point, I didn't quite understand  
18 that one square, I thought that was an  
19 intersection and then I learned about Washington  
20 had squares, and I know that square 168, that  
21 triangular one, that's where one of the sites  
22 were.

1                   COMMISSIONER LUEBKE: Yes, and I don't  
2 know if it's actually that building. You'd have  
3 to do more research to find out if it was  
4 actually the Mills building at the corner.

5                   MS. HOECK: Okay.

6                   COMMISSIONER LUEBKE: That's the  
7 family from El Paso.

8                   MS. HOECK: I can look that up.

9                   CHAIR MAY: So that may provide an  
10 avenue because, if there were a direct Texas  
11 connection, it might be a faster way to  
12 accomplish this then going through, because this  
13 is just like the very beginning of this process.

14                  MS. HOECK: I know.

15                  CHAIR MAY: And I know you've been  
16 working on it already for a long time.

17                  MS. HOECK: I have, but I've had a  
18 good time.

19                  CHAIR MAY: Good. Okay. So other  
20 commissioners have any thoughts on this?

21                  COMMISSIONER MALONEY: I'll make a  
22 comment or two, starting with full disclosure. I

1 was born in Texas in Mineral Wells and was a  
2 Texas resident for the first month of my life,  
3 but I guess once a Texan always a Texan.  
4 Seriously, my thoughts are similar to Mr.  
5 Luebke's that this kind of sort of forgotten  
6 aspects of history are the kinds of things that  
7 the general public finds really interesting, and  
8 we certainly in our office, in the Historic  
9 Preservation office, try to encourage this kind  
10 of project. And exactly how it comes about, I  
11 don't really know and there may be a simpler way  
12 than going through this process, but,  
13 nonetheless, I also think it's something that  
14 would be great to have.

15 It does remind me also of a proposal  
16 that we recently received from Hawaii to  
17 commemorate Queen Liliuokalani who stayed at the  
18 Cairo Hotel, which is now an notable apartment  
19 building in Washington. And she had exactly the  
20 same problem of trying to get the property owner  
21 to agree to a plaque on the building. So my  
22 sympathies on that respect.

1                   But I think anything that we can do --  
2                   certainly, you're free to contact my office and  
3                   we might be able to help in this, if it's not  
4                   something that's going through the commemorative  
5                   works process. But if it does go through the  
6                   process, I would certainly support, as well.

7                   COMMISSIONER FOUNTAIN: As a North  
8                   Carolinian, I have to take issue with the  
9                   Congressman's comment about better barbeque. In  
10                  this divisive time, I hope we can keep that off  
11                  of the commemorative plaque.

12                 MS. HOECK: I think we could probably  
13                 work that out. We're for inclusion not, you know  
14                 --

15                 CHAIR MAY: Other comments from the  
16                 Commission? No. Okay. I'm not going to take a  
17                 position on barbeque. I have yet to encounter  
18                 barbeque that I do not like. Anyway, so, I mean,  
19                 this is interesting. I do think that there's, it  
20                 is an interesting, untold story. It's also  
21                 interesting, since this is a pretty modest  
22                 proposal or at least what I'm imagining to be a

1       pretty modest proposal, it's really, it's more  
2       like a historical marker than it is like a  
3       typical commemorative work that we would see in  
4       Washington.

5                   And it is an interesting untold story.  
6       You know, there's a little bit of a very tiny,  
7       tiny bit of concern that comes with memorials  
8       that are associated with particular states. This  
9       is different in that it is about the legation and  
10      the Republic of Texas, and it is, I mean, I guess  
11      we would be opening the door for a flood of the  
12      other three or whatever it was, the other three  
13      republics that became part of the United States.  
14      But that being said, republics are other  
15      independent nations, I guess. Hawaii,  
16      California, and the other one? Vermont.

17                   MS. HOECK: Is it Florida?

18                   CHAIR MAY: No, it was Vermont. I'm  
19      sorry. I based my information on Wait Wait  
20      Don't Tell Me or something like that.

21                   (Laughter.)

22                   CHAIR MAY: No, it wasn't that. It

1 was some other podcast.

2 COMMISSIONER WRIGHT: Okay. Quit  
3 flexing.

4 MS. HOECK: One difference that I  
5 would add is that did they have diplomatic  
6 relations with other countries?

7 CHAIR MAY: And I don't know. And I'm  
8 not really worried about that, but I will say  
9 that we have resisted other proposals relating to  
10 other states. Not that they've come before us as  
11 legislation but the Park Service has been  
12 approached by other state groups wanting to have  
13 recognition in Washington. And I won't go into  
14 the details of what that was all about, but  
15 needless to say, it didn't happen.

16 So I think that it's pretty safe to  
17 say that the Commission would support a modest  
18 memorial commemorating the Texas legation and  
19 note that it is consistent with the Commemorative  
20 Works Act in all the key areas. You're not  
21 proposing something that's inside the reserve.  
22 Everyone associated with this has been dead more

1       than 25 years. The events occurred more than 25  
2       years ago.

3               I do think that there is, because you  
4       were talking about something that's on  
5       Pennsylvania Avenue or the vicinity of it, I  
6       mean, a number of the locations that we're  
7       potentially talking about are within Area 1,  
8       which would mean clearing that second bar and  
9       getting additional legislation.

10              MS. HOECK: If we could just get it  
11       over the line between one and two.

12              CHAIR MAY: So, you know, the process  
13       is that we go through the one and, if it does, in  
14       fact, get through the Congress, then we can talk  
15       further about what the strategy might be and what  
16       the potential locations might be. But we don't  
17       want to get too far ahead of ourselves.

18              MS. HOECK: That's right.

19              CHAIR MAY: So unless there's any  
20       other comments, then I would make the motion that  
21       this is what we communicate to the committees  
22       responsible and ask for a second.

1 COMMISSIONER McMAHON: I'll second.

2 CHAIR MAY: All right. It's been  
3 moved and seconded. Any further discussion? All  
4 those in favor, please say aye.

5 (Chorus of aye.)

6 CHAIR MAY: Okay. Thank you very  
7 much. So the next item on the agenda is H.R.  
8 5068, bill to authorize women who worked on the  
9 Homefront Foundation to establish a commemorative  
10 work in the District of Columbia or its environs  
11 formally introduced by Congresswoman Eleanor  
12 Holmes Norton -- did you hear any of that?  
13 Nothing. I'm going to start over again.

14 Fifth agenda item, H.R. 5068, a bill  
15 authorize Women Who Worked on the Homefront  
16 Foundation to establish a commemorative work in  
17 the District of Columbia or its environs. The  
18 bill was introduced by Congresswoman Eleanor  
19 Holmes Norton on November 13th, 2019. The bill  
20 was referred to the House Natural Resources  
21 Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and  
22 Public Lands. The committee held a hearing on

1 December 4th, 2019, and at the hearing the  
2 Department of Interior testimony recommended that  
3 the subcommittee defer action until this  
4 commission has had a chance to review it, which  
5 we are doing now.

6 I want to welcome Raya Kenney who will  
7 testify on behalf of H.R. 5068. Ms. Kenney is  
8 the founder of the Women Who Worked on the  
9 Homefront Foundation.

10 MS. KENNEY: Chair Peter May, members  
11 of the Commission, thank you so much for inviting  
12 me to testify before the National Capital  
13 Memorial Advisory Commission today. It is an  
14 honor and a privilege to be here, and I'm  
15 grateful that you are taking the time to consider  
16 my foundation's request to build a monument.

17 My name is Raya Kenney, and I am the  
18 founder of the National Memorial to the Women Who  
19 Worked on the Homefront Foundation. Our goal is  
20 to get a monument built to the women who worked  
21 on the homefront during World War II. A big  
22 thank you goes to Representative Eleanor Holmes

1 Norton and her staff who have worked tirelessly  
2 to get this project to where it is today. We are  
3 now working with offices in the U.S. Senate to  
4 introduce bipartisan companion legislation.

5 This project started seven years ago  
6 when I was in fifth grade. I was assigned a  
7 project to build a model monument to someone or  
8 something that hadn't been recognized in  
9 Washington, D.C. Having just watched A League of  
10 Their Own, which is a film about the women  
11 baseball players of World War II, I had a newly-  
12 found passion about the women who worked during  
13 the war, filling in the jobs the men now fighting  
14 could no longer occupy.

15 As I delved into my research, I  
16 learned there were over 18 million civilian women  
17 who worked on the homefront. Typically, when  
18 people envision these women, they see the we can  
19 do it poster with Rosie the Riveter proudly  
20 flexing her arm. However, the women who worked  
21 were far more than just factory workers. They  
22 were coders, pilots, lumberjacks, taxi drivers,

1 engineers, and mail carriers, among many other  
2 jobs. And I was surprised to learn that no  
3 monument existed in Washington, D.C. to  
4 commemorate their dedication and contributions to  
5 the war effort. Therefore, I chose to build my  
6 model monument to them, the 18 million women who  
7 worked.

8 As stated in the National Capital  
9 Memorials and Commemorative Works Act, the  
10 memorial should reflect a consensus of the  
11 lasting national significance of the subjects  
12 involved. Essentially, without the strength of  
13 these resilient women, we may not have won the  
14 war.

15 To begin, I sent out letters and  
16 emails to garner support for the idea and have  
17 received a lot of help along the way. The first  
18 big step occurred in 2016 when the Belmont-Paul  
19 Women's Equality National Monument invited me to  
20 the National Park Service's 100th anniversary  
21 celebration to display my model monument.  
22 Everyone in attendance was incredibly supportive,

1 and administers from the National Park Service  
2 said my design is what they look for in memorials  
3 and encouraged me to reach out to my  
4 representative, Eleanor Holmes Norton, to  
5 continue my efforts.

6 As evidenced by my presence here  
7 today, she was incredibly supportive and  
8 introduced the legislation for this bill. But  
9 first I would need a sponsor group to introduce  
10 the legislation, and so I had formed the  
11 501(c)(3) establishing the non-profit  
12 organization.

13 As stipulated by NCPC's steps for  
14 establishing a memorial in the nation's capital,  
15 all funding for this project would be privately  
16 raised through the foundation using crowdsourcing  
17 and corporate donations. No government funding  
18 would be used. We would look to garner support  
19 from women's groups and companies that first  
20 employed women during the war.

21 The proposed memorial design is shaped  
22 like a V to symbolize victory, which is a common

1 formation at baseball games, school assemblies,  
2 and other public functions. Pillars are used to  
3 form the V shape. The pillars represent the  
4 women themselves, signifying their roles as the  
5 pillar of strength that kept our country going  
6 during the war.

7 Brought to full size, the pillars  
8 would be constructed of black granite with the  
9 names of the jobs the women held etched on each  
10 side. Of course, I'd be excited about working  
11 with historians and the Library of Congress to  
12 ensure historical accuracy.

13 The monument is designed in a way as  
14 to not interfere with the view of any surrounding  
15 monuments or nature, and, as the Memorial and  
16 Museums Master Plan put forth by NCPC states, it  
17 would protect the beauty and openness of  
18 Washington's monumental core. It would allow  
19 people to sit and reflect on the women's  
20 importance contributions, enjoy the day, and  
21 relax.

22 I look forward and am open to

1 suggestions from the Commission and design  
2 professionals and look forward to hearing ideas  
3 to further the design.

4 As stated in the Master Plan, quote,  
5 Washington, D.C. is a symbolic city where many of  
6 the nation's values, democracy, opportunity,  
7 diversity, and mobility are defended and  
8 redeemed. If you look at Washington, D.C.,  
9 there's a severe lack of attention in our  
10 national landmarks given to women. Therefore, I  
11 believe it is paramount that we get this monument  
12 erected in our nation's capital and include these  
13 18 million women who worked on the homefront in  
14 this narrative.

15 As stated in the Commemorative Works  
16 Act, the memorial should be located, quote, in  
17 surroundings that are relevant to the subject of  
18 the work, end quote. During the war, the  
19 reflecting pool was lined with municipal  
20 buildings that federal workers, both men and  
21 women, occupied. The large concrete structures  
22 remained in place until 1969, and, though the

1 mall is closed, these buildings positioned to the  
2 north of the reflecting pool were in Area 1. I  
3 believe that any location in Area 1 outside of  
4 the Reserve and is close to the World War II  
5 memorial would fit the NCPC's recommendation for  
6 an appropriate site. That said, I am aware that  
7 NCPC and the National Park Service will have  
8 insights to share and will ultimately make the  
9 decision.

10 Meeting with women who have worked on  
11 the homefront has been incredibly eye-opening.  
12 For example, Phyllis Gould, she's a 97-year-old  
13 Rosie who worked as a welder at Kaiser Shipyards,  
14 corresponds with me through letters and phone  
15 calls and has said when discussing recognition of  
16 her barrier-breaking role, quote, I want it to be  
17 something permanent because these women worked  
18 and they did every job that was vacated by a guy  
19 going into the service, end quote.

20 With so few original Rosies left, we  
21 hope to see the monument authorized in their  
22 lifetimes. All the women who would be honored by

1       this memorial were civilians and were not  
2       included under the GI Bill.

3               This is not a quick or easy process,  
4       but it's an important one. I love watching the  
5       World War II vets come to my hometown of  
6       Washington, D.C. on the tour buses to view their  
7       memorial. They are so proud, and I often see  
8       people stop and clap for them. The women who  
9       worked on the homefront were instrumental in the  
10      war, and they, too, deserve this recognition.  
11      The National Memorial to the Women Who Worked on  
12      the Homefront Foundation will help with that  
13      endeavor while increasing our understanding and  
14      appreciation of the contributions that these  
15      women made during the war, as well as paving the  
16      way for future generations.

17             According to NCPD's Master Plan, a  
18      commemorative work must be of preeminent  
19      historical and lasting significance. As General  
20      Eisenhower once said, the contribution of the  
21      women of America, whether on the farm or in the  
22      factory or in uniform to D-Day, was a sine qua

1 non, or necessary, for the invasion effort. Had  
2 we not won the war, we would live in a vastly  
3 different world today.

4 Thank you for supporting this ongoing  
5 work and for allowing me to testify before you  
6 today. A big thank you goes to Covington and  
7 Burling for their pro bono legal assistance and  
8 advocacy support and another big thank you goes  
9 to the Davis Brody Bond for their pro bono  
10 rendering of my design and guidance. Thank you  
11 to Representative Norton and all the co-sponsors  
12 of the proposed bill and everyone's incredible  
13 support.

14 I'm happy to answer any questions you  
15 may have at this time, and I respectfully request  
16 that you'll consider authorizing this memorial to  
17 these incredible women. Thank you.

18 CHAIR MAY: Thank you very much. Does  
19 anyone have any questions? Mr. Sherman?

20 COMMISSIONER SHERMAN: I have a  
21 question. Were you the fifth grader who came  
22 here and interviewed me --

1 MS. KENNEY: Yes.

2 COMMISSIONER SHERMAN: -- seven years  
3 ago?

4 MS. KENNEY: Yes, I was. Hi.

5 COMMISSIONER SHERMAN:

6 Congratulations. First of all, having someone in  
7 fifth grade stick to something this long and not  
8 give up, I want to acknowledge the stick-to-it-  
9 ness. And I'll comment later, but  
10 congratulations on getting this far.

11 MS. KENNEY: Thank you.

12 CHAIR MAY: Other questions? So,  
13 again, we do not have anyone signed up to  
14 comment. Is there anyone in the audience who  
15 wanted to add comments? I'm not seeing anybody.  
16 Okay. So thank you. I think you can take a  
17 seat, and we'll have some discussion of this.

18 So I would also note that, in addition  
19 to the testimony you just heard, we received  
20 written testimony from Congresswoman Eleanor  
21 Holmes Norton, the bill sponsor, and that was  
22 distributed to the Commission in advance.

1                   The bill language for H.R. 5068  
2           requires compliance with the Commemorative Works  
3           Act and contains appropriate requirements for the  
4           prohibition of use of federal funds and transfer  
5           of excess funds, et cetera. I would note that  
6           the memorial would commemorate the commitment and  
7           service of the women who worked on the homefront,  
8           as opposed to the women themselves, so I guess  
9           we're not looking at a wall of 18 million names.  
10          That would be new, even for us. With the subject  
11          of women who worked on the homefront during World  
12          War II represents something of lasting historical  
13          significance to the American people that merits a  
14          commemorative work in the national capital.

15                   So I'm wondering if anyone would like  
16          to kick this off.

17                   COMMISSIONER SHERMAN: I do have a  
18          question. Is this in any way related to the  
19          Rosie the Riveter memorial in California? I  
20          think it's Richmond, California. No relation at  
21          all or synergy at all as --

22                   MS. KENNEY: It's not related. It is

1 a similar issue. However, they have a museum,  
2 whereas I'm proposing a memorial. They do a  
3 really nice job of telling the women's stories  
4 and their narratives, whereas this would be a  
5 commemorative work honoring the women and not  
6 focused on so much on the individuals, more so  
7 just the recognition of how they've paved the way  
8 for future generations.

9 COMMISSIONER SHERMAN: I have to ask  
10 you, you've been working on this at least seven  
11 years and you had a design, I remember, seven  
12 years ago.

13 MS. KENNEY: Yes.

14 COMMISSIONER SHERMAN: So I hope  
15 you're open, I guess the question is are you open  
16 to revisions to the --

17 MS. KENNEY: Absolutely. I look  
18 forward to everyone's input. And I know it was  
19 originally designed when I was in fifth grade.  
20 I'm sure that's not going to be the end result,  
21 but it has gone through some changes. Yes, I did  
22 the process sort of backwards where I did the

1 design first and then everything else second. So  
2 I'm open to any changes.

3 COMMISSIONER SHERMAN: I would say  
4 that this idea of recognizing women on the  
5 homefront is part of this narrative of expanding  
6 the commemorative landscape, and staff does  
7 support the idea of commemorating women on the  
8 homefront, NCPC.

9 CHAIR MAY: Are there other comments  
10 from members of the Commission? Mr. Fountain.

11 COMMISSIONER FOUNTAIN: I'd say again,  
12 as with the Medal of Honor memorial considered  
13 before, it raises the question, since there is a  
14 site elsewhere in the country dedicated to this  
15 issue, is the nation's capital the appropriate  
16 site for this or should it be steered elsewhere?

17 That being said, I think the social  
18 history embodied by the role of women on the  
19 homefront and World War II is a large enough part  
20 of the American story that it, you know, I could  
21 support it being acknowledged here in Washington.

22 To Ms. Kenney, so I'm just talking to.

1 I don't have a question. So I started a memorial  
2 foundation, and I was 44 years old at the time.  
3 So congratulations to you. And my memorial was  
4 for World War I, and on my commission we had a  
5 saying, Rosie the Riveter had a mother. And  
6 there were a lot of women who served on the  
7 homefront in World War I, and so, as you go  
8 forward with this, you might think about telling  
9 that consolidated story because, as those events  
10 recede in time, they start to merge and become  
11 one event. And so just a suggestions for you to  
12 think about.

13 COMMISSIONER MALONEY: Just picking up  
14 on that, another thought that I had is whether or  
15 not you had thought about the possibility of  
16 associating with another organization that might  
17 bring some additional strengths to the proposal.  
18 Again, it's just sort of a question for you, not  
19 really asking for an answer. But one of the  
20 things that comes to mind to me is that some  
21 proximity to the World War II site would be  
22 logical with this proposal, obviously. And to

1 Edwin's point that it is maybe not just a  
2 phenomenon that happened during World War II,  
3 although I think the social implications of it  
4 probably were much larger on the nation as a  
5 whole than earlier. But the earlier example of  
6 Clara Barton and the Red Cross where she was  
7 essentially doing the same thing, she couldn't be  
8 a soldier so she did her part in other ways,  
9 might make the Red Cross headquarters a possible  
10 location for this, and perhaps they might  
11 consider some kind of co-sponsorship.

12           So just something to throw out there,  
13 but I think I would also express that, as have  
14 been said before, that this is an important part  
15 of the nation's history and I think the kind of  
16 thing that certainly, from a standpoint of the  
17 historic preservation movement and what should be  
18 preserved and commemorated through history, this  
19 is expanding to represent all aspects of the  
20 nation's history and is certainly a very  
21 important topic and this would be along the lines  
22 of that.

1 CHAIR MAY: Other comments? Mr.  
2 Luebke?

3 COMMISSIONER LUEBKE: I mean, it's  
4 obviously a worthy topic. I think the devil will  
5 actually be in location, determining a site. I  
6 think it would be very difficult to talk about it  
7 being associated with the World War II Memorial  
8 because of the issues of the Reserve, et cetera.  
9 Frederick just reminded me that there is a plaque  
10 or a tablet that talks about the role of women in  
11 the war actually in the front part of the  
12 memorial.

13 Anyway, this will be an issue later  
14 and I don't know clearly -- the order of things  
15 is authorization, site, design, and then design,  
16 so I know you started maybe a little bit  
17 backwards. I mean, it's a reasonable idea of  
18 national significance.

19 CHAIR MAY: Okay. Thanks. So I'm not  
20 getting there are a whole lot of other comments.  
21 I get sense that the Commission is supportive of  
22 this as a topic of worthy of commemoration. And

1 I think the way that the language reads within  
2 the bill helps us with the consistency issue  
3 because, of course, it has not been 25 years  
4 since every member of the group has passed away.  
5 So it's not about the individuals, it's about the  
6 commitment and service specifically.

7 I do agree with Commissioner Luebke  
8 that the challenge for this will be site. If you  
9 aspire to be near World War II, you know, being  
10 within the Reserve is absolutely a challenge and  
11 not currently permitted by law. And being within  
12 Area 1, which gets you closer, means another  
13 round of legislation and review, and so that's  
14 also a challenge. But I think, clearing this  
15 first hurdle, that opens the door for having a  
16 more detailed conversation about where the nexus  
17 is between this commemorative work and other  
18 locations in Washington where it might resonate.  
19 So I think there are certainly possibilities for  
20 that.

21 So I would make a --

22 COMMISSIONER MALONEY: If I may, Mr.

1 Chairman, I just want to make clear that I wasn't  
2 suggesting it should be at the World War II  
3 Memorial.

4 CHAIR MAY: No, no, no, I know you  
5 weren't. I know you were not.

6 COMMISSIONER MALONEY: That's why  
7 looking for a site that is not there --

8 CHAIR MAY: No. Absolutely, I  
9 understand that. I didn't think anybody was  
10 recommending that it be located within the  
11 Reserve. It was just, that connection was raised  
12 and that's all I wanted to clarify.

13 So I would make a motion that we send  
14 a letter to the committees indicating support for  
15 this commemorative work, noting its consistency  
16 with the with the Commemorative Works Act, noting  
17 the importance of the contribution of the women  
18 who worked on the homefront to the success of  
19 World War II and also note that it is a welcome  
20 expansion of representation among the  
21 commemorative works within the nation's capital  
22 because we have a whole lot of memorials with

1 soldiers on horseback and so on, but we don't  
2 have many memorials for women and I think this is  
3 appropriate.

4 So that's my motion. Anyone second  
5 that?

6 COMMISSIONER LUEBKE: Second.

7 CHAIR MAY: Okay. It's been moved and  
8 seconded. All in favor, please say aye.

9 (Chorus of aye.)

10 CHAIR MAY: Any opposed?

11 (No audible response.)

12 CHAIR MAY: None. Okay. Thank you  
13 very much. Congratulations. I hope you can  
14 manage to get it all the way through the sausage-  
15 making process. And if you're looking for other  
16 memorial designs, I think my son had a memorial  
17 design that's in a box in the basement. He  
18 didn't stick with it as much as you did. I'm not  
19 sure it's quite as good, but, anyway, I'm sure  
20 there are many of those things in many basements  
21 but none as prominent as this. So thank you.

22 Okay. So we are on to our last item,

1 which is a design review of the Desert Storm and  
2 Desert Shield memorial. Everyone has a copy of  
3 the presentation at their desk.

4 August 16th, 2017, Congress authorized  
5 the national Desert Storm and Desert Shield  
6 memorial. On March 31st, Congress authorized the  
7 placement within Area 1. And the approved  
8 memorial site is at the corner of 23rd Street,  
9 N.W. and Constitution Avenue.

10 And so we have today with us Scott  
11 Stump, President and CEO of the National Desert  
12 Storm War Memorial Association, and Skip Graffam  
13 of the OLIN Studio who will provide the design  
14 presentation on behalf of the association.

15 Mr. Stump.

16 MR. STUMP: Chairman May,  
17 Commissioners, I'll dispense with the saving the  
18 best for last because I know that isn't true in  
19 my case. For Skip it is. But thank you. It's  
20 always an honor and a privilege to stand before  
21 you, and I'm just reminded that, you know, we're  
22 five years into this and I just thank you for

1 still allowing us through the doorway. And it  
2 was really neat to see this young lady's  
3 enthusiasm at this point in the project, and I'm  
4 trying to sop up some of that at this point to  
5 continue on.

6 CHAIR MAY: The secret is to bring  
7 barbeque.

8 MR. STUMP: Okay. Well, you have to  
9 specify whether that's North Carolina brisket.  
10 We'll get into that discussion. But thank you  
11 again, and our hopes today are that we can share  
12 with you some of the tremendous progress that our  
13 team has accomplished over the last, in  
14 particular, several months.

15 We have always, throughout the entire  
16 length of this process, always learned a lot from  
17 your input, and we welcome that, as always. And  
18 make no mistake, that input is going to make this  
19 a better memorial and you will see the effects of  
20 that when we are completed.

21 Before I turn it over to Skip, I did  
22 want to just clarify one area of emphasis or

1 focus. Earlier, it was mentioned we got into the  
2 body count discussion, and I just want to make it  
3 known that that is not the matrix that we have  
4 ever looked at with this. Of course, we would  
5 never stand up to any of the existing memorials  
6 or some of the proposed on that standard. I've  
7 got a second cousin who's on the Vietnam Memorial  
8 and it's a real downer when I go there. It's not  
9 an uplifting experience. This memorial is  
10 important, and it will highlight those important  
11 aspects.

12 One of our artists, I think, says it  
13 very well. You know, you don't have tens of  
14 thousands of casualties. That's a great reason  
15 to build it. And I also want to remind you all  
16 that one of the focus points that we have is on  
17 what we call the pivot, that change in the  
18 relationship between the American public and the  
19 military. And thank goodness those that came  
20 after us and that continue to serve are the  
21 beneficiaries of this. So this is a very  
22 important thing and this is a tribute to the

1       700,000 who answered the call who were willing to  
2       make that sacrifice.

3               Thank you for allowing me to clarify  
4       that, as far as our focus goes. And without  
5       further ado, let's turn it over to Mr. Skip  
6       Graffam from the OLIN Studios in Philadelphia,  
7       Pennsylvania. Thank you, Commissioners.

8               MR. GRAFFAM: Thank you, Scott.  
9       Chairman May and Commissioners, thank you very  
10      much. I don't have a barbeque story, so I feel a  
11      little, you know, bereft, but I'll carry on.

12              Today's presentation is really more of  
13      an update from where we are. As Scott has  
14      mentioned, we've been collaborating with you all  
15      through various commissions and staff meetings  
16      and interactions over the course of several years  
17      to develop the memorial to where we are today.

18              So what we're going to talk about  
19      today is really our status report and what we're  
20      working on next. We want to touch base with you  
21      on the memorial site. Obviously, the impact to  
22      the National Mall, Area 1, where we are, are

1 going to be important considerations. And now  
2 that the design has solidified a bit more, we  
3 have more definitive kind of information to talk  
4 about that. Also, we want to talk about where  
5 the design concept stands at the moment. We just  
6 recently received concept approval from both CFA  
7 and NCPC.

8           However, the last bullet, the concept  
9 development is the feedback and input we received  
10 from both commissions as to what to work on next.  
11 And our focus is going to be on the commemorative  
12 elements, the artistic pieces, everything from  
13 the sculptural elements, the central foundation  
14 water elements, as well as the walls and so  
15 forth. So that's our area of focus from here on  
16 out, and so I'll walk you through each of those  
17 components.

18           Just a quick refresher. As you see,  
19 our site is the intersection of 23rd and  
20 Constitution, also right where the off-ramp from  
21 Teddy Roosevelt Bridge comes. The dash line here  
22 is the Reserve. I know that was mentioned

1 earlier, the location of the Reserve. We're  
2 tucked in right up alongside of it on 23rd,  
3 obviously proximal to Lincoln, Vietnam Veterans,  
4 Institute of Peace, and so forth, and the State  
5 Department just off the page.

6 This is photos of the site. Left-hand  
7 is looking north towards the Institute of Peace.  
8 This is the corner of 23rd and the off-ramp of  
9 Teddy Roosevelt. Looking southeast from the  
10 sidewalk, it leads on down to the river. You can  
11 see the 23rd Street here and the Lincoln Memorial  
12 in the background. The view is straight down  
13 23rd on access to the Lincoln Memorial, our site  
14 here at the intersection. And then stepping into  
15 the site closer to the outlay of trees you see  
16 the view from the memorial to the Lincoln  
17 Memorial from that site.

18 The site plan shows the memorial in  
19 context in terms of its rendering and  
20 relationship to the Constitution Avenue sidewalk.  
21 The framework for the memorial really is two  
22 interlocking berm forms that create the space off

1 of the hustle and bustle of 23rd and Constitution  
2 Avenue, creating a reflective space for the  
3 commemoration of Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

4 What you see here is the proximity to  
5 this corner serves several purposes. One, it  
6 reserves as large an area as possible for the  
7 rest of the mall for both passive and active  
8 recreation. It takes advantage of the major  
9 visitor traffic that's coming from Vietnam  
10 Veterans, as well as from Lincoln, seven million  
11 this way, five million this way, that will be  
12 arriving to the entrance of the memorial here.

13 One of the things in our discussions  
14 and development of the memorial was the idea that  
15 this is seen as the first step towards re-linking  
16 the sidewalk and maybe Constitution Avenue even  
17 down to the Belvedere at the River. The idea  
18 that many of the memorials and museums that are  
19 along Constitution Avenue, it is the --

20 CHAIR MAY: Mr. Graffam, can I  
21 interrupt for just a second?

22 MR. GRAFFAM: Sure.

1 CHAIR MAY: So you really shouldn't be  
2 using the pointer.

3 MR. GRAFFAM: Okay.

4 CHAIR MAY: I think we can, if we have  
5 trouble getting along, there's a pointer you can  
6 use on the screen --

7 MR. GRAFFAM: Okay. That's fine.

8 CHAIR MAY: -- on the laptop over  
9 there.

10 MR. GRAFFAM: I can gesture. Sorry.  
11 Sorry about that. I didn't see it. Anyway, the  
12 idea that this memorial will be the start of  
13 potentially improvements to the sidewalk leading  
14 down to the Belvedere, and its proximity at that  
15 corner is the first towards what would hopefully  
16 be a continuation and a reorganization, that  
17 spaghetti of roads and eventually Constitution  
18 Avenue to the Belvedere.

19 In the site, again, the discussion of  
20 the placement of the memorial was its  
21 relationship to the outlay of trees which are, of  
22 course, paramount in the plan of the National

1 Mall and the District of Columbia. The tree  
2 placement of the outlays, we were trying to stay  
3 outside of the root zones. We have an arborist  
4 on our team that has looked at all the trees on  
5 site. The two green trees are ones we feel we  
6 will need to replace. The one closest to the  
7 intersection is in terrible health, will probably  
8 die in the next couple of years anyway. The  
9 other green one just to the left may or may not  
10 survive. We're just assuming the worst. But  
11 those are the only two that would be affected.

12 The blue color trees are ones that we  
13 will be adding. The one that's up near the  
14 intersection is actually a missing tree in the  
15 outlay, which we're able to put back. And the  
16 ones down near the Lincoln Memorial Circle are  
17 implementation of the staggered array that's part  
18 of the long-term Park Service design for the  
19 Lincoln Memorial Circle.

20 The memorial will sit outside of the  
21 100-year flood plain, but this area is on the  
22 Army Corps of Engineers' list of levy

1 improvements to close the last segment of the  
2 levy to protect the monumental core and downtown  
3 Washington, D.C. The elevation of the levy is  
4 required to be at 20.6, and we've actually looked  
5 to how we might connect that 20-foot contour  
6 throughout the site. At one point, the memorial  
7 was potentially considering completing part of  
8 the levy, but, in this case, we are accommodating  
9 the future development of the levy within the  
10 form of the memorial, and that 20-foot contour is  
11 absorbed into that dune form. But the memorial  
12 is not dependent on the levy and vice versa, but  
13 it is able to be accommodated in the future.

14 Moving on to the design concept, there  
15 are really six major themes that we are  
16 expressing in the memorial. The first, the  
17 dunes, the desert landscape, the context of the  
18 conflict is extremely important to the  
19 commemoration. From the veterans group and  
20 stakeholders, the left hook was probably the most  
21 important thing that symbolized almost the speed  
22 and the precision of the operation, and so the

1 left hook has been of significance to the  
2 veterans as something they definitely want to see  
3 expressed and that has been consistent through  
4 all the design iterations.

5 The idea of the coalition, this was an  
6 unprecedented size of coalition, 35 nations  
7 acting under the auspices of the United Nations.  
8 Some of our consulting historians consider that  
9 the one time the United Nations has actually  
10 functioned according to its design. But the idea  
11 of the nations coming together and working  
12 equally, equal shared sacrifice to execute the  
13 mission of Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

14 The idea of the storm, not only the  
15 operation name but the idea of the reflecting the  
16 speed and power of the operation, as well as some  
17 of the local context. The idea of the oasis  
18 again, evoking the desert landscape but also  
19 important to creating a visitor experience that's  
20 comfortable in the Mall. The idea of water and  
21 vegetation to mitigate some of the climate  
22 challenges we have in Washington, D.C.

1                   And, finally, as Scott mentioned, the  
2                   transformation, an extremely important element  
3                   within the United States, the transformation, the  
4                   relationship between the citizens and the  
5                   military over a 20-year period. Since then, the  
6                   military has become the most trusted organization  
7                   in government. Where it was before Desert Shield  
8                   and Desert Storm was not that at all, so that's a  
9                   significant point of commemoration within the  
10                  memorial.

11                 Larger site plan view. Again, you can  
12                 see the idea of the two interlocking dunes that  
13                 create the space. They form, essentially, the  
14                 island within the National Mall, Area 1. And the  
15                 idea of -- the dunes are asymmetrically-oriented  
16                 to emphasize an entry on one side and an exit on  
17                 another. There is a general left-hook path that  
18                 leads you through the memorial to the center.  
19                 There's also an ascending path. The idea, you're  
20                 elevating your experience as you're rising as you  
21                 move throughout the memorial to help emphasize  
22                 the view back to the National Mall and the view

1 out to the rest of the memorials around the  
2 Desert Shield and Desert Storm memorial.

3 That rising left-hook pattern is  
4 important, as Scott said. It's a symbolic  
5 element of celebration but also an outward-  
6 looking memorial connecting to its context and  
7 filling part of what is probably one of the most  
8 important cultural landscapes in the United  
9 States. So it's very much a part of the larger  
10 landscape and the views out. While there are  
11 commemorative elements within, the views out are  
12 very important to this concept.

13 You can see here more in the aerial  
14 perspective. The idea of the patterning of the  
15 walls creating that dune and desert feel, moving  
16 up on the left-hook following the wall moving up  
17 to the center. And so in this case the smaller  
18 dunes are used to allow for planting to create  
19 that oasis feel but also to take up some of the  
20 gray change. So we have a fully accessible  
21 memorial all the way throughout, yet still  
22 achieving three feet of gray change to achieve

1       that significant center point that's higher than  
2       the rest.

3                   Commemorative themes and framework.

4       Again, these were developed both with the  
5       veterans and the association, as well as the  
6       commissions, narrowing it down to really three  
7       major commemorative themes. On the left, the  
8       yellow wall is more of an international focus.  
9       It's about the operation itself, the invasion,  
10      the Desert Shield/Desert Storm liberation. It's  
11      meant to include the idea of the kind of dynamic  
12      power and speed of the operation and the events  
13      that unfolded.

14                   The wall closer to the intersection is  
15      really a U.S.-focused wall on the pivot, the  
16      transformation to the military, the idea of  
17      pride, and the fact that it's an all-volunteer  
18      force was made up of potentially ordinary  
19      American citizens that might be your neighbor or  
20      your colleague. And that is meant to be  
21      commemorative on that wall.

22                   And then in the center, the idea of

1 the coalition. Again, it was an unprecedented  
2 size, the idea of shared service but also of  
3 sacrifice and the fact that each nation in its  
4 own way, they were in it together and were all  
5 sharing the risk. And that really was the  
6 central element that all of this was built  
7 around.

8           Again, just a quick kind of a diagram  
9 of how you move through the ascending path there  
10 coming from 23rd Street up to the center of the  
11 high point. The walls, some of the power of the  
12 wall is not only the proximity to each other and  
13 the views they allow but also the height. There  
14 are points in the wall where there are high  
15 points. The tan zones are higher points of the  
16 wall, the bluer lower ones. So blue is below  
17 four feet, the tan is on up to about six-and-a-  
18 half feet and then back down again. And the idea  
19 that commemorative work crescendos to these high  
20 points and back down on both walls, it creates a  
21 zone of space where you feel you're in something  
22 but yet opens up the view to the south towards

1 the Lincoln Memorial, so you're again, you're  
2 experiencing the commemorative work but always  
3 oriented back to the larger context.

4 Again, the idea of the oasis, the  
5 central weather feature, and the idea of trees  
6 and planting that create a more shaded  
7 environment and invite visitors to stay longer  
8 than just walking through a very hot, kind of  
9 inhospitable environment.

10 The section here, quickly you can see,  
11 again, the two dune forms with the central space  
12 in the middle that is the focus of the coalition  
13 commemoration. And a view floating above the  
14 Teddy Roosevelt Bridge exit looking south shows  
15 the space.

16 Jumping in to the interior, these are  
17 where we left off with the Commission, so these  
18 are the elements that are under kind of revision  
19 at the moment in terms of the commemorative work.  
20 The form itself has been locked in, if you will,  
21 but the commemorative elements, like the fountain  
22 and the wall commemorative elements are still

1 under, we're still working on and developing.

2 The idea there is a central feature  
3 that does have both water and the sound of water.  
4 The idea of a commemorative table where, again,  
5 all the nations are represented equally and  
6 focused in the center of the memorial. The idea,  
7 of course, anytime you deal with water in  
8 Washington and in a federal facility, the water  
9 should be an add-on versus an absolute must-have.  
10 The idea that there would be an element in the  
11 center that is also part of the commemoration,  
12 either a map or an emblem, that the water can be  
13 over, but the water, as we know, is often turned  
14 off or sometimes down for maintenance, so we want  
15 to make sure this commemoration works without the  
16 water.

17 And, again, the idea of having this  
18 have a relationship to the views and the sky and  
19 so forth, so the idea of exploring movement of  
20 water, as well as reflectivity in the surface.

21 So, again, those images of the central  
22 feature are ones that we are looking at right

1 now. We have a few studies of things we're  
2 starting to go on to next. We haven't gotten to  
3 the central feature yet. We have several  
4 studies, but we haven't really arrived at one, I  
5 think, that we feel is ready to share.

6 So the feedback from the commissions  
7 was not only about the commemorative work that  
8 would be on the walls and in the center but also  
9 the relationship of more abstract art to more  
10 figurative art. And so we're starting kind of  
11 back with a foundation of what does the memorial  
12 want to express and what are the key elements.  
13 And then what are we looking at in terms of  
14 integrating that art on the wall and also art in  
15 the center.

16 So the idea, again, of the three major  
17 themes are critical. The ascending left hook,  
18 the idea of views out. The idea of including  
19 figurative artwork, that was very important to  
20 the veterans as a way to create that emotional  
21 impact. And, again, the idea of the water  
22 element both for comfort but to create that oasis

1       feel and to create a space off of a space and  
2       create that reflective area within.

3               So what we're looking at here, and we  
4       have a few images, is the artistic wall content,  
5       both the large and the small wall. What we're  
6       hoping to do with these is integrate both a  
7       linear, almost bas relief element with figurative  
8       elements to create an overall composition that is  
9       greater than the individual pieces. And so the  
10      idea that the figurative work would be connected  
11      to and relate to the wall in some way, shape, or  
12      form. So we're exploring these now with our  
13      sculptural team and this is under development.  
14      We have the first couple of ideas of what we're  
15      going to study, and we can show you as we get  
16      further on.

17              So just a quick refresher again. The  
18      idea of the storm wall, the international wall,  
19      the pivot wall, the more U.S.-focused wall about  
20      transformation and the coalition in the center.  
21      In addition to the commemorative work, we're  
22      looking to include quotes that relate to this on

1 the international and storm wall, almost more in  
2 the context setting, by General Schwarzkopf, an  
3 international figure relating to the importance  
4 of this addressing of aggression by a coalition.  
5 Then on the pivot wall the quote from George Bush  
6 about setting out to confront an enemy abroad,  
7 but, in the process, transforming a nation at  
8 home. So those quotes will be part of the wall  
9 commemoration, as well. We're still working on  
10 the quotes. These aren't finalized, but this is  
11 the direction that we're going at the moment.

12           So what we're looking in terms of this  
13 is creating almost a cinemagraphic collage of  
14 images that would then be turned into a bas  
15 relief and supported by figurative sculpture. So  
16 looking at some of the collage of images that  
17 represent the invasion, the liberation, and so  
18 forth, and how that might translate into the wall  
19 forms that we have. Again, we have the idea of  
20 this extremely powerful form from almost an  
21 exhibit height. We have about 140 feet of  
22 curving wall that goes up to about six-and-a-half

1 feet, so it crescendos up and then back down.  
2 And so how do we map these images? These are  
3 just photos of what would be a bas relief. These  
4 are not the actual representations of what's on  
5 the wall, but we're exploring that idea of  
6 collage and cinematic unveiling of this as you  
7 walk through that left hook pattern and then  
8 mapping that on to the actual curving wall with  
9 the quotes. This is the composition that we're  
10 looking at, so the idea that starting off on the  
11 main wall there's the idea of the build-up with  
12 the quote, the conflict, the peak, the  
13 liberation, combined with figurative sculptures.  
14 In this case, we're looking at the eagle  
15 representing the U.S. leading the coalition and  
16 the falcon representing the freedom and  
17 liberation and Kuwait. Then, again, bracketed by  
18 international quote giving context to this entire  
19 Desert Storm and Desert Shield. And then on the  
20 smaller wall the transformation quote from George  
21 Bush, the idea of departing from Kuwait, the  
22 homecoming, and the parade, which actually

1 happened on Constitution Avenue. The victory  
2 parade that came down Constitution Avenue is  
3 right next to the site of the memorial. So  
4 that's, again, a nice juxtaposition of the siting  
5 of this and how that represents the  
6 transformation and the relationship to the  
7 military that continues to this day and, ideally,  
8 beyond and forever.

9 In addition to that, we're looking,  
10 again, at looking at these, incorporating the  
11 dune texture into this bas relief and the idea of  
12 these elements part of the wall. So in this  
13 case, Robert Eccleston, our sculptor, here is  
14 looking at an eagle. This is probably a nine or  
15 ten-foot wingspan. The falcon is more about five  
16 feet or so. And the idea of them interacting  
17 with that bas relief on the wall and representing  
18 the U.S. leading the coalition and then  
19 afterwards departing at the end of the successful  
20 conclusion of the operation.

21 So we have a couple of -- right now,  
22 we're also looking at the wall in terms of the

1       bas relief and how that might be expressed on the  
2       wall, either full-bleed, if you will, from paving  
3       to the top, or is it more of a focused band in  
4       the center that concentrates the elements kind of  
5       right at, if you would call it exhibit height or  
6       right at kind of eye level where you would be  
7       looking.

8                   And, similarly, on the back wall,  
9       again, the full bleed idea of the bas relief or  
10      the kind of more focused bas relief strip. The  
11      figures in the back, we have a lot of work to do  
12      on that, so those are more for scale and we've  
13      been told, obviously, we need to go back and get  
14      to work on those, so that's not really anything  
15      we have to show at the moment.

16                   And then that's, again, kind of the  
17      overall view of it, and that's where we are at  
18      today. Sorry about the pointer.

19                   CHAIR MAY: Okay. Thank you very  
20      much, Mr. Graffam. Commissioners, any questions  
21      about the design presentation? Yes?

22                   COMMISSIONER FOUNTAIN: How many feet

1 of sculpture do you contemplate on each of the  
2 walls?

3 MR. GRAFFAM: The bas relief?

4 COMMISSIONER FOUNTAIN: The bas  
5 relief, yes.

6 MR. GRAFFAM: Part of it is going to  
7 be readability of -- for example, the overall  
8 wall from flush to ground up and then back down  
9 is about 180 feet of radial length, so the actual  
10 usable space, if you will, that's kind of visible  
11 at the right height is probably more about 130,  
12 120 maybe. Probably starting just before the  
13 quote through and then back over to here.

14 COMMISSIONER FOUNTAIN: So that's 130  
15 on the storm wall?

16 CHAIR MAY: Can you stay at the mike,  
17 please?

18 MR. GRAFFAM: Yes. Roughly, 130 and  
19 then about 90 on the small, a little bit smaller.

20 CHAIR MAY: Okay. That's it for your  
21 question. Any other questions? No. Okay. So  
22 we will move into discussion. We don't have

1 anybody else here who signed up to testify. I  
2 don't see anybody in the audience that I don't  
3 recognize. Mr. Harwood keeps -- Mr. Harwood,  
4 keep your hand down.

5 (Laughter.)

6 CHAIR MAY: All right. Thank you very  
7 much. So I would welcome comments. I know, Mr.  
8 Luebke, you have to leave shortly, so we're happy  
9 to hear you first.

10 COMMISSIONER LUEBKE: Okay. So this  
11 is a little bit like the first case where there's  
12 been a review not so long ago, there's been some  
13 evolution of the design, it has yet to be  
14 reviewed by the Commission. So I'm a little bit,  
15 I can't really tell you if you're doing what you  
16 were advised to do.

17 I did want to make a few corrections.  
18 The Commission did not give it a full concept  
19 approval. It's called a general concept, which  
20 means that they were very happy with the general  
21 disposition of the site plan but not down to the  
22 elements within. This includes the table and, in

1 particular, the human figural statuary and, to  
2 some extent, a major point was that they felt  
3 that the story of locating this in Kuwait as a  
4 specific geographic thing as opposed to, it  
5 seemed a little bit like, gosh, go, yay,  
6 military. It wasn't reading very well. So this  
7 is a fundamental conceptual point that is  
8 missing.

9           So in addition to the Kuwait story,  
10 you know, they were very happy with the general  
11 disposition of these pieces. There was no real  
12 statement of support for the figural, the human  
13 figures, and I want to just, it's important, I  
14 think, for my fellow commissioners to understand  
15 that, and I'm sorry, they really pushed back on  
16 them finding it to be strangely informal in pose,  
17 facial expression, and attire and, therefore,  
18 inappropriate for the gravity of the memorial's  
19 subject. This statues appear to be incidentally  
20 placed and may elicit undignified behavior by  
21 visitors, yet they're overly realistic depiction  
22 may invite public criticism regarding the

1 demographic representation conveyed. They,  
2 therefore, strongly question whether these should  
3 be included in the design, suggesting that the  
4 message of the figures should be expressed  
5 elsewhere in the memorial.

6               So this is a very strong message.  
7 Again, the Commission of Fine Arts does have  
8 approval authority under the Commemorative Works  
9 Act. I'm sure that they will be looking for some  
10 way of addressing this issue. I understand it's  
11 extremely important to the group, but I'm just  
12 going to go out on a limb here and say there's a,  
13 I find, I am fingering a problem here where this  
14 starts to smack of propagandistic sculpture  
15 reminiscent of regimes you don't want to be  
16 associated with. So I think you should take that  
17 very seriously.

18               There are a little, there's kind of a,  
19 there's some amazing human figural sculptures  
20 depicting war and we can all think of examples.  
21 I was just down yesterday in front of the Schrader  
22 Memorial, the Grant Memorial, and it's incredibly

1 moving. It's just, I think it's an issue that  
2 you have to really address. I think everything  
3 was generally supportive of the abstraction of  
4 the birds representing the American eagle, the  
5 falcon associated with the Arab culture, so I  
6 just think that I have to get it on the record  
7 that there's some serious things. I don't want  
8 to speak for the commission in advance, but this  
9 is what they raised. Sorry to be -- plenty of  
10 good things about the general design.

11 CHAIR MAY: Thank you, Mr. Luebke.  
12 Others? Ms. Wright.

13 COMMISSIONER WRIGHT: I have three  
14 things, and I'm sorry I missed the NCPC review.  
15 I was ill, not irresponsible. And I was very  
16 sorry to miss it. And I'll start with a negative  
17 because you just did, and I totally agree with  
18 it. And I'm sure that the memorial sponsors are  
19 dead-set of having figural sculpture, and I would  
20 urge that you rethink it because the design has  
21 become so beautiful and physically expressive of  
22 big, the big ideas, and I feel that the design

1 quite literally sort of lifts you up and out into  
2 a higher plane of ideas and the figural sculpture  
3 just kind of brings you back down in way that  
4 isn't illuminating or enlightening or elevating.  
5 And I think if they have to have them, please  
6 consider putting them somewhere else because they  
7 disrupt this beautiful geometry that you have  
8 working here, and the meaning of, I mean the  
9 symbolism of the left hook, all this stuff, it  
10 all hangs together.

11 And I can go with the birds. The  
12 birds are abstract enough. And I didn't know  
13 the falcon and the eagle thing, and when I was  
14 reading it -- so all those things, I think they  
15 work really well together and it just hits a  
16 discordant note and I can see, Scott, that you're  
17 unhappy but --

18 MR. GRAFFAM: No, I'm just  
19 contemplating what you're saying.

20 COMMISSIONER WRIGHT: I just hope that  
21 you can think it through because I think the  
22 Commission of Fine Arts, I hadn't really

1 considered that, but, you know, you get into the  
2 demographics that you're representing and you  
3 can't possibly make everyone happy, and it may  
4 end up being the controversy of your memorial.  
5 And the juice ain't worth the squeeze. So that's  
6 one thing.

7 The other thing is, the other two  
8 things, I still am having a terrible time with  
9 this table. And if you were to show a section of  
10 it, the silhouette is like a fire element, not a  
11 water element. It looks like the Olympic torch,  
12 so it hits a really discordant note for me just  
13 strictly on a design level, and I get, I think  
14 what you have would look beautiful dry. It does  
15 that really well. But I would reconsider if not  
16 the surface of it, the silhouette in section.

17 And then the last thing was on the bas  
18 relief. It was a weird, when I got the  
19 presentation, I thought this was odd where you  
20 say, well, it could have, the uncarved stone  
21 could frame the bas relief, but it shouldn't  
22 because it makes it really precious and kind of

1       like a film strip of images like that versus, and  
2       you kind of kill the whole dune feeling that way.  
3       By not letting it bleed out, it becomes a little  
4       precious and a little bit, well, here's a framed  
5       set of bas reliefs and we want you to read it  
6       left to right in case you're missing anything.  
7       You know, it just starts to feel a little  
8       precious and you lose the whole contrast. It's  
9       an imposition of a contrast in textures that is  
10      meaningless sort of. That sounds bad. That  
11      doesn't have meaning. Okay.

12               CHAIR MAY: Okay. Thank you very  
13      much. Next up. Mr. Sherman, next to the mike.

14               COMMISSIONER SHERMAN: We understand  
15      you've taken, you're still considering the NCPC  
16      Commission's comments and they're working towards  
17      addressing all of those. I think staff's initial  
18      reaction to the imagery is sort of caution to,  
19      as you mentioned, this is also an outward-facing  
20      memorial, and I think the concern that staff has  
21      is with the level of detail of the imagery it  
22      could be in conflict with the broader landscape.

1       You have such strong geometric forms, the overall  
2       landscape is very strongly geometric when you  
3       think about the grounds and the reflecting pool.

4               I think there's a sense that if you  
5       try and include every image that you sort of  
6       drafted here, you start to lose something with  
7       the geometry. So I think it's just a caution to  
8       not to try to paint too detailed a story with the  
9       imagery and the bas relief.

10              CHAIR MAY: Thank you very much. Next  
11       up. Mr. Fountain.

12              COMMISSIONER FOUNTAIN: I shared the,  
13       I mean, I guess the CFA's reactions on the  
14       sculpture. I was intrigued by the eagle and  
15       falcon and it does appeal to me. The holders did  
16       not. And a couple of thoughts on that. One is  
17       you've got about five different commemorative  
18       elements here. You've got bas relief, you've got  
19       the representative sculpture, you've got the  
20       human figures, you've got the quotations, you've  
21       got the table. Are you packing in too much,  
22       particularly at the end when you seem to have

1 about three of them all at one site, at one part  
2 of the site.

3 Related to that, you've got an awful  
4 lot of real estate for your bas relief sculpture.  
5 And I'd be curious to see how you filled it and  
6 might advise you not to try to fill it all. One  
7 way to go would be to tell your whole narrative  
8 on the first wall all the way through to  
9 homecoming and whatever messaging you have in  
10 homecoming and then put the quotations up at the  
11 end in the sort of more quieter, more  
12 contemplative part of the site and let the  
13 quotations speak for themselves. Alternatively,  
14 you could just use the Schwarzkopf quote here and  
15 then on the pivot wall have a much smaller bas  
16 relief to convey whatever it is you want to  
17 convey and then put in the Thatcher and the Bush  
18 quotes because that's where you're talking about  
19 the coalition, and so the Thatcher quote would  
20 seem to make more sense there, as I recall, but  
21 not try to fill, and I've lost the numbers, well  
22 over 200 feet of --

1 MR. GRAFFAM: Absolutely.

2 COMMISSIONER FOUNTAIN: -- bas relief,  
3 which would be a challenge.

4 On the sculpture, I'm dubious, but I  
5 think about the Vietnam Veterans Memorial and the  
6 addition of the three soldiers, you know, a lot  
7 of people don't like, but there's a relationship  
8 of the soldiers to the wall that you can  
9 appreciate, which is what seems to be missing  
10 here. There doesn't seem to be a particular  
11 relationship and then, of course, we don't know  
12 what the grouping would be because you're still  
13 working on that, but I'm not sure how it relates  
14 to the rest of the site. And so I, you know,  
15 your designers can work that out. I don't see  
16 it.

17 I'd rather see something, an echo  
18 somehow of what was done with the eagle and the  
19 falcon where something more symbolic and a  
20 lighter touch on the site, rather than being  
21 these figures right out in the middle of the  
22 site. And so I think the sculpture needs to be

1 more of an accent somehow, rather than a  
2 predominant feature, when you've already got two  
3 or three other memorial elements happening in the  
4 same place.

5 MR. GRAFFAM: Thank you.

6 CHAIR MAY: Great. Thank you. Mr.  
7 Turnbull.

8 COMMISSIONER TURNBULL: I'm not going  
9 to repeat the other comments that have been said.  
10 I want to get back to the table idea. It's got  
11 an outer ring to it, there's water, and it's  
12 flowing down on its inner part, and so you hear  
13 that. I mean, there's a nice sound to it. And  
14 you've got the plaques all around with the names  
15 of the countries.

16 I guess, getting back to what Ms.  
17 Wright said, I mean, if you don't have the water  
18 and you come up and you're simply looking at this  
19 flat table, I don't know why you would do that,  
20 unless there was some kind of like internal flame  
21 or something in the middle to look at.

22 COMMISSIONER WRIGHT: The Park Service

1 does not do fire.

2 CHAIR MAY: We barely do water.

3 COMMISSIONER WRIGHT: They don't like  
4 water, but they really don't do fire.

5 COMMISSIONER TURNBULL: It seems to me  
6 that there's no need for me to go up to the  
7 table, I mean, unless there's some intricate  
8 design or something. But then in order to see  
9 it, it wants to be curved or something around.  
10 It almost seems like you want another tier if  
11 you're going to do that or maybe you need another  
12 tier of water. It's like water, if we stick with  
13 just water, no flame, it seems to be that that's  
14 something that -- the sound, if this is supposed  
15 to be peaceful, this is supposed to be  
16 contemplative that I go up and I hear the water  
17 and I can look, little kids will splash their  
18 hands, but, I mean, it just seems like it needs  
19 to be tweaked. I think that, without the water,  
20 you have nothing. There's nothing really to --  
21 unless that platform becomes some kind of an  
22 image itself or a mural or something that

1 reflects something that you wanted else to be  
2 that really -- I think, without the water, you  
3 don't have anything. That table is not going to  
4 really work the way you think it does.

5 CHAIR MAY: Mr. Maloney, comments?

6 COMMISSIONER MALONEY: I'm going to  
7 concur with comments already made. I also feel  
8 that the three sculpture figures really are  
9 unfortunate in recalling the Vietnam Memorial and  
10 in all aspects.

11 COMMISSIONER WRIGHT: And it's not  
12 about the sculpture itself. Sorry.

13 CHAIR MAY: Okay. Thank you very  
14 much. Any other comments? I think we heard some  
15 similar themes here, certainly some messages that  
16 we can carry forward. I don't think much of what  
17 you heard is new compared to what's already been  
18 heard at various Commission meetings, and I know  
19 that the topics that this commission is  
20 recommending need further study on components of  
21 the design that the design team is working on.  
22 So we will formulate a letter that conveys these

1        comments to Mr. Stump and his organization. And  
2        unless there's anything else, I think we can  
3        conclude this matter on the agenda. Thank you  
4        very much.

5                    So the last thing that we have on the  
6        regular agenda is the memorials update. Given  
7        the time that we have spent and given the fact  
8        that I think we have already distributed it on  
9        paper to the members of the Commission, I will  
10       not read through any of that. But if anybody has  
11       any questions, feel free to ask. Not seeing  
12       anyone having any questions. If anybody is  
13       missing that update, we can certainly provide it.  
14       We currently have 11 memorials that are in  
15       progress. One recently lapsed. And more on the  
16       horizon it seems.

17                    So I think that's about it. And now  
18        on to the final item, which is any other  
19        business? Is there any other business the  
20        Commission should take up at this time? Seeing  
21        no indication, I think this meeting is adjourned.  
22        Thank you all very much. This was a marathon.

1       Thank you for our court reporter, as well, for  
2       your sticking with us the whole way and for the  
3       members of the audience and for Mr. Harwood for  
4       sitting through the whole thing.

5                       (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter  
6       went off the record at 5:21 p.m.)

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In the matter of: National Capital Memorial  
Advisory Commission Meeting

Before: NPS

Date: 02-11-20

Place: Washington, DC

was duly recorded and accurately transcribed under  
my direction; further, that said transcript is a  
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